

LAST CHANCE TO TAKE UP THE £50,000 FOOTBALL CHALLENGE

BEST FOR BOOKS

What we really read on holiday. PAGE 15
PLUS: Antonia Fraser on Guy Fawkes
Peter Ackroyd on D.H. Lawrence
PAGES 34, 35

PREGNANCIES IN LATER LIFE

Dr Stuttford on good news for Koo Stark and caring for Yeltsin
Body & Mind, P14



<input type="checkbox"/> Director	75K
<input type="checkbox"/> Consultant	60K+
<input type="checkbox"/> Executive	60K
<input type="checkbox"/> Manager	50K

Howard wins fight to fly flag on ID cards

BY JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Union Jack will appear on the new national identity card to be announced today, ending a fierce Cabinet battle over which emblems should be used.

Michael Howard has persuaded ministers that the Union Jack must be used after Tory Euro-sceptic MPs protested at plans to include the European Union flag on the card. The Home Secretary will today announce a formula that will ensure

the British flag appears on all three cards which are to be unveiled.

□ The voluntary plastic identity card will display the Union Jack and the Royal Crest, which is already used on passports.

□ The new driving licence will bear both the Union Jack and the European Union flag — 12 gold stars on a blue background — essential for the card to be valid across the continent.

□ A combined ID and driving licence with the Union Jack, the EU flag, and the Royal Crest.

The launch of the new scheme had been threatened with delay after Northern Ireland ministers opposed Mr Howard's demand for the inclusion of the Union Jack. There were fears that this could upset nationalists in Northern Ireland. However, under a compromise package, Northern Ireland will be unaffected by the move until 2001.

Under the formula, people in Northern Ireland can continue using their existing paper driving licence and plain ID photocard until

2001. However, those who wish to apply for either the new ID card or combined ID and driving licence — both bearing the Union Jack — will be free to do so. What happens in 2001 is unclear. "That bridge will be crossed when we get there," a Whitehall source said.

Mr Howard is likely to put legislation for the new card before Parliament this autumn. Although the driving licence, set to come into force in the New Year, will be compulsory, the ID card will be voluntary. However, ministers hope

most people will combine the two for the sake of simplicity.

The ID card will also serve as a travel document throughout the EU. It will be issued by the DVLA and priced at between £10 and £15 in an attempt to increase its appeal to the public. A passport currently costs £18.

Whitehall officials said the Prime Minister had been kept fully informed but had not intervened at any time. "He hasn't needed to," one source said.

The deal was hammered out

between the Home Office, the Northern Ireland Office, and the Transport Department over the last week and all sides are said to be content with the formula.

However, Tory rightwingers said Mr Howard had not gone far enough. John Redwood, the former Tory leadership challenger, said: "I think it is absurd having the 12 stars on any card. I certainly don't myself intend to have an ID card or driving licence with the EU flag on it. It is not the British way to have flags on things."



"We've got to go back. I've left one of my ID cards behind"

De Klerk begs forgiveness for apartheid

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN CAPE TOWN

IN A powerful gesture of reconciliation, South Africa's last white President yesterday publicly repented for the suffering apartheid inflicted on millions of people over nearly five decades.

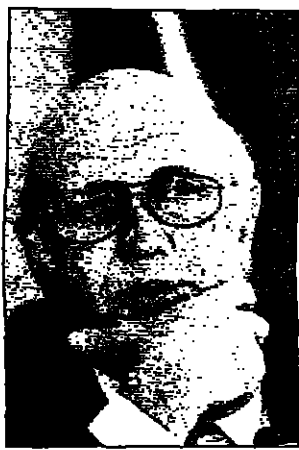
"We have gone on our knees before God Almighty to pray for His forgiveness which, in the final analysis, is more important than anything else," F.W. de Klerk, the National Party leader, told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Cape Town. But he refused to accept any personal blame for human rights abuses committed under white minority rule.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the commission chairman, seated at a table opposite, listened approvingly and later congratulated the former President.

Mr de Klerk, 60, dressed in a dark suit and accompanied by black and white colleagues, had arrived in the large hall in the Good Hope Centre to cries of "Viva de Klerk, viva!" from black supporters. He took a seat beneath a banner reading "Truth — the road to reconciliation".

Yesterday was not the first time Mr de Klerk had apologised for apartheid but, on this platform, it was especially significant. Presenting the National Party's submission on the third day of a special four-day hearing of political parties, Mr de Klerk, President from 1989 to 1994, acknowledged that the National Party had made "many mistakes in the past" and was "genuinely repentant". He insisted, however, that neither he nor other National Party leaders had authorised human rights abuses against opponents of apartheid.

"In dealing with the unconventional strategies from the side of the Government, I want to make it clear from the outset that, within my knowledge and experience, they never included the authorisation of assassination, murder, torture, rape, assault or



De Klerk: "We have knelt before God"

the like," he said. "I have never been part of any decision taken by Cabinet, the State Security Council or any committee authorising or instructing the commission of such gross violations of human rights."

The commission, which began its hearings in April, is investigating human rights violations committed under apartheid between 1960 and 1993. After nationwide victims' hearings, the commission recently began amnesty hearings, beginning with prisoners, which open the way for people who make full disclosures to be absolved — so long as their crimes do not constitute gross violations of human rights. The theory is that, by confronting the past, the commission can help South Africans understand what happened and thereby push them along the road to reconciliation.

Flanked by black and white colleagues on the podium, Mr de Klerk conceded in a 30-page submission that harsh steps taken to preserve white minority rule, including detention without trial, muzzling of the press and military force against protest, "created circumstances and an atmosphere which were conducive to many of the abuses and transgressions against Hu-

man Rights which form the basis of the commission's present investigations."

Mr de Klerk said that, while he did not authorise abuses, he could neither control nor be aware of all that was done by lower-ranking officials who may have believed that National Party policy justified their actions, particularly in those operations conducted on a "need to know" basis.

Questioned by members of the panel on his submission, particularly on the question of amnesty, Mr de Klerk brushed aside suggestions from Dr Alex Boraine, the commission's deputy chairman, that it was "disingenuous" to suggest that there was no link between political leaders and their functionaries. He would be surprised, he said, if National Party leaders were linked to human rights violations.

Although the submission shed no light on individual incidents and revealed little that was not already known, Archbishop Tutu nevertheless warmly congratulated Mr de Klerk for what was widely seen as a cop out. What is more, the commission appeared defensive after earlier demands for detailed and preferably documented information on state national security, how torture became routine in the police force and the nature of the relationship between state death squads and their political principals.

About 20 ANC demonstrators picketed yesterday's hearing, but Mr de Klerk evaded them by entering through an underground garage. ANC supporters in the packed public gallery of about 400 people jeered when Mr de Klerk denied knowledge of a notorious hit-squad killing, but Archbishop Tutu admonished them to keep quiet or be ejected.

The ANC is due to present its view of the apartheid struggle on Thursday.

Partial text, page 11



Dr David Caldwell, of the National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh, with a wood carving from the Swan

Wrecked Cromwell ship found

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH
AND ALAN HAMILTON

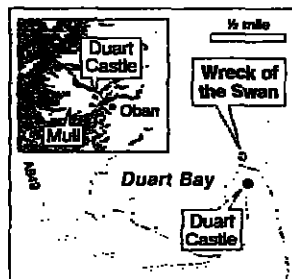
MARINE archaeologists who have discovered the wreck of a Cromwellian warship off the Isle of Mull believe it could prove as significant as the Mary Rose.

Their most important discovery is the ship's "nerve centre" — the binnacle with its six-inch compass still intact. It will be taken to a laboratory at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh tomorrow for conservation work.

The ship, first identified four years ago when movement in seabed silt exposed part of its stern, is thought to be the 200-ton warship *Swan*, which sank in 1653 during an expedition to attack Duart Castle on Mull, where the Clan Maclean, sympathetic to the Royalist cause, was holding out against the Parliamentarians' advance. The vessel, one of a fleet of six, is thought to have foundered in a storm.

Dr Colin Martin of St Andrews University archaeological diving unit, leader of the project to study the wreck, said yesterday that recovery of the *Swan*'s binnacle in an excellent state of preservation was the most exciting underwater discovery in Britain since Henry VIII's warship *Mary Rose* was found on the bed of the Solent.

"The binnacle was the nerve centre of the ship. This is the first one to be found in a shipwreck of this period in British waters," Dr Martin



said. "Parts are missing, but you can still see the three compartments which would have held a candle to light the compass at night, as well as other navigational instruments. It is easy to imagine the helmsman standing on deck at night, glancing down occasionally at the compass in the flickering light to check his course."

Commander David Waters,

the former deputy director of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, said the binnacle would originally have held a compass, sand glasses to measure time, and the ship's log. They were rarely recovered, as they were often the first thing to be swept off the deck when a ship went down. The only other ancient binnacle to have been found belonged to a 16th century whaling ship and was recovered at Red Bay in Labrador.

The Mull binnacle is an oblong wooden box open on the side that faced the helmsman. It is held together by wooden pins, as iron nails would have affected the compass. Dr Martin and his team of three divers from St Andrews have already recovered a number of other artefacts from the wreck, which lies in 42 ft of water just off one of the

largest islands of the Inner Hebrides.

Naval engagements were not a significant part of the Civil War in either England or Scotland, and shipwrecks from that period are rare. But Cromwell, having seized the navy from King Charles I, turned it into a successful fighting force which engaged in a prolonged series of battles with the Dutch.

Cromwell's navy, page 4

British hostage is freed

BY STAFF REPORTERS

A BRITISH aid worker being held hostage in Chechnya has been released, the Foreign Office said last night.

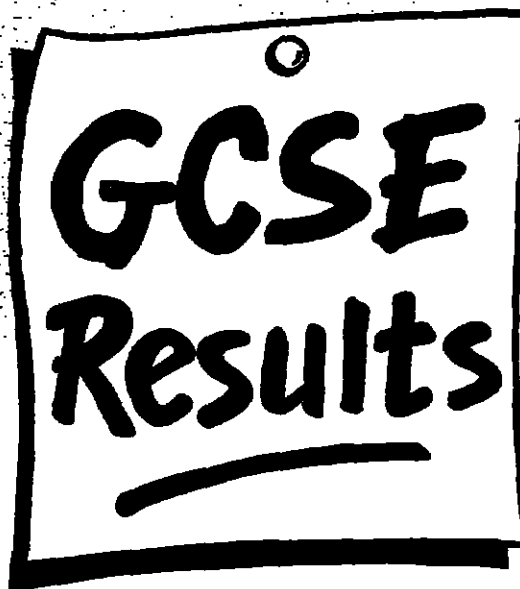
Michael Penrose, 23, and a French colleague, Frederic Malardeau, 35, were seized by gunmen in Grozny, the capital of the breakaway Russian republic, 26 days ago.

Mr Penrose's father David said from his home in Swerford, Oxfordshire, last night: "All we know is that Michael and Fred are safe and in the hands of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Words cannot express our happiness. It is an incredible relief."

The two hostages had been working for Action Against Hunger.

The news of their release came as Aleksandr Lebed, Russia's security chief, and the Chechen rebel chief of staff Aslan Maskhadov said that they had agreed a ceasefire. Lebed said that he would stop the Russian army from carrying out a threat to start bombing Grozny, the Chechen capital, this morning. Thousands of people have been fleeing the city. Lebed told reporters after meeting Maskhadov that the Russian army commander's ultimatum to bomb Grozny was "a bad joke".

Generals spill, page 9



Behind every GCSE and A-level result is a teacher with 100% commitment to bringing out the best in every student.

And behind more than 150,000 teachers and lecturers is ATL — the forward-thinking trade union and professional association with 100% commitment to education.



Working for Teachers and Lecturers
Working for Education

Association of Teachers and Lecturers
7 Northumberland Street London WC2N 5DA
0171 930 6441

Weakest pupils get nought

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

SCHOOLS were accused yesterday of abandoning their weakest pupils by failing to enter them for public examinations, despite a seventh successive rise in GCSE pass rates.

Results to be posted in schools and colleges today will show a rise of one percentage point in A-C grade passes, the equivalent of an old "O" level. But total entries have failed to keep pace with a rise in the number of 16-year-olds.

David Hart, the general

secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, called for a government inquiry into the gap in entries, claiming that the pressure of league tables was discouraging schools from entering low-ability candidates. "More pupils are being shuffled about the system as schools concentrate on improving their standing."

John Sutton, the general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, admitted that schools were reluctant to enter

those who are least able, but blamed it on spending cuts. "Many simply do not have the money to spend on exam fees for pupils who plainly will not pass because they have not completed their coursework successfully."

However, the examination boards said it was too early to tell why the entries did not rise by more than 1 per cent when there were 3 per cent more 16-year-olds in schools.

Compulsory subjects, page 7

How the Treasury's sums went for a song

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

ANTIQUE buffs from all over the world came to London in June for a spending spree and, in the process, distorted Britain's economic statistics.

The City was confounded yesterday by news that retail sales had fallen by 0.6 per cent between June and July. Statisticians said that as much as half of that fall could be traced to bumper sales of antiques at two major fairs in June which left July's figures looking dis-

Unexpected decline, page 23

Buying The Times overseas:
Australia \$20.00; Belgium Fr 50.00;
Canada \$15.00; Denmark Dkr 22.00;
France Fr 14.00; Germany DM 14.00; Greece Dr 300.00; Hong Kong HK\$ 20.00;
Italy L 4.500; Luxembourg Lfr 20.00;
Netherlands f 14.00; Norway Kr 20.00; Portugal Esc 250.00; Spain Ptas 2,500.00; Sweden Skr 19.50; Switzerland Sfr 14.00; Tunisia Din 2,200.00; USA \$15.00.

The Times on the Internet
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>



TV & RADIO 42, 43
WEATHER 22
CROSSWORDS 22, 44

LETTERS 17, 27
OBITUARIES 19
PETER RIDDELL 16

ARTS 31-33
CHESS & BRIDGE 40
COURT & SOCIAL 18

SPORT 37-42, 44
BODY & MIND 14
DEGREE VACANCIES 36

How old Cary Grant's friends clashed over his boyhood shame



Hollywood style: Grant at the peak of his career

By ROBIN YOUNG

RIVAL chroniclers of the Hollywood star Cary Grant yesterday broke a lifetime's silence and became involved in an unseemly scrap over the nature of the debonair actor's guilty secret. They agreed on only one thing: he certainly had one.

His sole surviving classmate, now 93, claimed that Grant, then Archie Leach, the school scuff, was expelled in 1918 from Fairfield School, Bristol, because he was a teenage thief. But Grant's closest confidant, who knew him for half a century, declared: "This old squealer telling tales out of school

is talking absolute nonsense." Alston Thomas, one of only two journalists to be given Grant's private telephone numbers, then exposed what he said was the sordid truth: "Cary was expelled for masturbating in the toilets, and he made no secret of it to me."

Grant, the leading man in many classic movies such as *Alfred Hitchcock's North by Northwest*, managed to keep his boyhood shame, whatever its nature, under wraps. He died in 1986.

Ted Morley, 93, of Henleaze, Bristol, a former pupil at Fairfield, broke a lifetime's silence on the subject yesterday to claim that Grant, who was born in the city,

was expelled for stealing from a church. In Mr Morley's account, even at the age of 14 the future Cary Grant displayed the coolness that became the hallmark of his career. Mr Morley says that when he was told by the headmaster in front of the whole school that he was expelled, Archie raised an eyebrow, tapped a cigarette on his cigarette case, and asked: "Can I get my books?"

Mr Morley said that the theft had been unpremeditated. Grant and two other boys had been on a cycling excursion and entered the unlocked church.

This account was repudiated by Mr Thomas, a former Bristol

journalist. "There are huge weaknesses in Morley's story, and in any case I know it is wrong," he asked, if three boys stole from the church, was only Grant expelled? "Cary was too poor as a child to afford a bike, so he could never have gone on a biking excursion."

Mr Thomas said that he was told by another former pupil that Grant was expelled for masturbating in the lavatories. "I used to tease Cary about it. He invented a story that he had been caught peeping at the girls," Mr Thomas added. "Grant never went back to Fairfield. He listed his education in *Who's Who* as Fairfield Acad-

my, which sounds very fine, but actually he hated the place."

That Grant was adept at keeping personal details to himself is well-known. When a journalist wired his agent with the query: "How old Cary Grant?" Grant famously intercepted the message and replied: "Old Cary Grant fine. How you?" But he can no longer stop former chums and schoolmates from telling on him. A new biography of Grant by Graham McCann is to be published next month. What further peccadilloes that may disclose, movie fans must dread to think.

New films and videos, pages 31, 32



Bristol fashion: Grant, then Archie Leach, as a boy

Princess's adviser found life hard in media spotlight

By EMMA WILKINS

THE Princess of Wales's former media adviser spoke for the first time yesterday of her frustrations and difficulties in the job that she left abruptly last month. Jane Atkinson, who resigned after seven months, said that she had been completely unprepared for the niceties of royal protocol.

One of her first duties was to accompany the Princess to a lunch in central London hosted by Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber. Ms Atkinson, who was dressed for the occasion, did not realise that she was not invited to join the VIPs and ended up buying a hamburger.

"I come from a very ordinary background. It was inevitable that at times I felt out of my depth," she said. Ms Atkinson, who is due to appear soon on BBC's satirical quiz *Have I Got News for You*, denied suggestions that the Princess was jealous about her close relationship with the media. "What has she got to be jealous about? She is one of the most influential and powerful women in the world. I'm 49, married to the hilt, and wear Marks & Spencer suits," she said.

In an interview with *PR Week* magazine she added that she knew about the Princess's decision to be filmed watching an operation at Harefield Hospital, but was powerless to stop it as it had

been arranged before she was appointed. "It was not my job as media adviser to tell her what to do."

Ms Atkinson, who did not mind receiving telephone calls day and night from the Princess, did resent the constant calls from journalists. "I didn't want to be in the media spotlight. It is a very uncomfortable place to be."

Her children, Caroline, 10 and Nicholas, 16, were at first excited by the attention, but the novelty soon wore off. "They realised that I wasn't happy with it. I never went anywhere without my mobile. It dominated their lives."

She said that her decision to resign was prompted by concern for the future of her

public relations business. Atkinson Courage, whose clients include Avis and the Equal Opportunities Commission. She was spending all her time on work for the Princess.

After Ms Atkinson's resignation, the Princess decided to rely on three secretaries to handle her public relations. "She [the Princess] feels that having a media adviser is not what she needs at the moment. I was appointed to handle the obsessive attention but that has changed now," Ms Atkinson said.

"It was a very natural time for the contract to come to an end after the divorce settlement. The media will always be interested in what she does, but it is less damaging now. She has the divorce settlement and there is less damage-limitation need. She has more breathing space to decide what to do."

She said that it had been exciting working for the Princess. "You will never (normally) have a client where you can pick up the telephone to anyone in the media in the world and get a front page story."

When asked if she had any regrets, she told the magazine: "I met amazing people and have done amazing things. I don't know if in five years' time I will look back and say it made me or it didn't make me. I was quite successful before — but I couldn't nor have done it."



Atkinson: said she felt out of her depth at times

Don't be silly, wife tells bank robber

By ROBIN YOUNG

A WOMAN magistrate foiled an armed bank robber by treating him like a naughty boy and telling him not to be so silly.

Pam Mills, 49, a magistrate in Kettering, Northamptonshire, was presented with a certificate yesterday for the brave way she acted when the man behind her in the queue growled: "Give me the money." Mrs Mills said: "I spoke to him just as I would have done to my children playing the fool ten years ago."

Mrs Mills was paying in money from a charity street collection when she heard the gruff voice behind her. "I looked down at his gun and it looked like two pieces of tubing wrapped in a plastic bag. I told him: 'Don't be so silly. That's not a real gun. Just go away,' and I brushed him aside."

The robber repeated his threat to the cashier and this time aimed his double-barrelled gun at Mrs Mills. She said: "I looked at it again and thought, 'Oh, my God.' This

time it looked real. I thought my life was at risk. I knocked the gun up to the ceiling and he turned and walked off."

Mrs Mills's first impressions were correct. The gun was a fake, but the man holding it, Carl Barnes, was real enough, and already on the run from Wellingborough prison where he was serving six years for robbery.

Barnes, who was described by a Crown Court judge as a danger to society, was sentenced to a further seven years. He admitted attempting to rob Barclays Bank in Burton Latimer.

Asked if she thought she was a hero, Mrs Mills replied: "I am just an ordinary wife and mum. I acted instinctively. If I had thought about it, I think I would probably have run a mile."

Ted Crew, Chief Constable of Northamptonshire, said: "If it had not been for her prompt and courageous actions, despite the risk to her own safety, the robbery would have been committed."

Chocolate acts like cannabis

By NIGEL HAWKES

RESEARCHERS believe they have found a reason why chocolate may be addictive. Many people claim to suffer "chocolism", but scientists have mostly been sceptical. Now the discovery in chocolate of three chemicals able to mimic the effect of cannabis puts the craving on a sounder footing.

Dr Daniele Piomelli and colleagues from the Neuroscience Institute in San Diego, California, subjected cocoa powder or chocolate from three manufacturers to exhaustive analytical tests. They found three, belonging to a class called N-acylphenolamines. One was identical to a fat called anandamide which occurs naturally in the brain.

Anandamide is released from neurons and rapidly broken down, suggesting that it is a signalling chemical. The pleasurable effect of cannabis is believed to result from the fact that the chemicals in it lock on to the same sites in the brain as anandamide.

Consecrated virgins plan reunion at Whitsuntide

By ROBIN YOUNG

ELIZABETH Bailey, Britain's first consecrated virgin for centuries, is busy organising a virgins' reunion, to be held at the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Plymouth on Whit Monday, May 19, next year. It will be the 25th anniversary of her own consecration, and the first time that consecrated virgins have met in Britain since their reintegration by the Second Vatican Council.

Miss Bailey, a former midwife who is now field worker for peace and justice in the Plymouth diocese, delivered hundreds of babies while with the National Health Service, while resolutely

maintaining her own vows of chastity. The rite of the consecration of virgins had been allowed to lapse for centuries before it was revived by Vatican II at the instigation of Pope John XXIII.

Miss Bailey was consecrated on Whit Monday, May 15, 1972. She has taken a vow of lifelong celibacy, and admits to an occasional pang about giving up any chance of a family, but still believes she has followed the right path.

She heard about the Vatican II decision while working in Labrador. "I came back and took part in the ceremony in Brighton. I was the first but now there are

about 100 in the country and four in our diocese covering Cornwall, Devon and Dorset. No one keeps precise count of the numbers, but many of the virgins are in touch with each other to offer sisterly support and friendship."

Miss Bailey believes her way of life has added attractions in an age when divorce is common and more women have their own careers. She says: "Our service next year will be a time of celebration, not a time for regrets. I look around me and I think I have got the better deal. I have five brothers and sisters who all have children, so I have not missed out."



Divers searching yesterday for Jodi Loughlin, 6, and her brother Tom, 4, who disappeared on Sunday from the beach at Holme next the Sea

Three-day search for missing beach children is called off

POLICE last night called off the search for two children missing off a Norfolk holiday beach, after three days (Stephen Farrell writes). The news was broken to the parents of Jodi Loughlin, aged 6, and her brother Tom, 4, from south London, as search teams, aided

by personnel from RAF Marham, filed wearily back to headquarters having failed to find any trace over an extended 12 square mile area.

The investigation now switches to the hundreds of calls to police from members of the public, but Norfolk

police admit they do not have a positive sighting of the children, who vanished on Sunday afternoon at Holme next the Sea. As each day passes, fears grow that they were swept away by strong currents in the spring tide.

The police appealed for information

from an unknown man who kicked the family's football back to the children's mother Lynette, 37, minutes after the children disappeared. There was nothing sinister about the man, but police would like to know if he could remember seeing the children.

Where can you find the cheapest mobile phone line rental?

TANDY

WE'VE GOT ANSWERS...

Our lowest ever line rental!

only £7.49 per month*
on this great choice of phones

*Line rental is £7.49 per month, including VAT, for the first six months, plus £2.94 for compulsory itemised billing (total £10.43). There is a monthly charge of £17.94 (including itemised billing) for the remainder of the contract. Available on a choice of phones. Subject to status and connection to Vodafone network.

TO CONTACT YOUR NEAREST TANDY STORE CALL FREEPHONE 300666

welcome

"You've got questions, we've got answers" is TM/SM licensed to InterTAN Inc. by Radio Shack, a division of Tandy Corporation (U.S.A.). Prices may not be applicable or may vary at Dealers.

NEC P800

£9.99

- Up to 100 minutes of talktime
- Up to 27 hours standby
- 99 number memory
- Four ringer tones

17-7627



Samsung SH710

£9.99

- Lightweight design
- 99 number memory
- Up to 50 minutes talktime
- Up to 9 hours standby

17-7621



Motorola Duo

£9.99

- Popular 'flip' design
- Up to 60 minutes talktime
- Up to 8 hours standby
- Selected stores only

17-7622



Landlubber Cromwell knew value of loyal navy

■ The discovery of the Cromwellian warship *Swan* off the Isle of Mull highlights the important role played by the navy in the Civil War, albeit a largely non-combattant one, Alan Hamilton writes

TRADITIONALISTS would nominate the founder of the British navy as Alfred the Great, but there are those who would stake a claim for that unlikely of sailors, Oliver Cromwell.

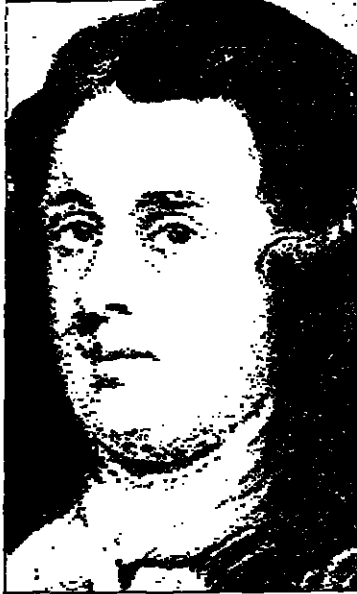
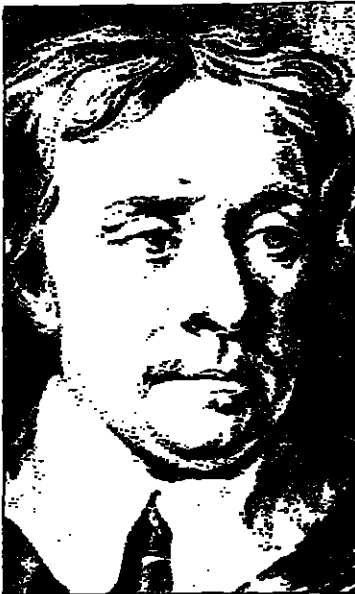
Naval engagements played no significant part in the English Civil War, and the wreck of the *Swan* off the Isle of Mull appears to be the remains of what was no more than a mopping-up operation against recalcitrant Highland chiefs after the Lord Protector of England had thrashed the Scottish end of the Royalist cause at the Battle of Dunbar in 1650. Yet the state of the navy was one of the root causes of the Civil War in the first place. Coastal towns had never greatly objected to paying "ship money" — a tax to build ships to ward off pirates and other unsavoury invaders — but when Charles I levied the tax on inland counties, the rumblings began. They did not understand much about pirates in Leicestershire.

When Charles then applied the ship money to waging a war against Scotland, he had what was

in effect an early poll tax revolt on his hands. Such eminent Englishmen as John Hampden refused to pay the tax, incensed that it was raised by the King and not by Parliament. Charles, still imbued with the Stuart dream of rule by divine right, could not entirely see the problem of whether a navy should belong to the sovereign or the state.

Although the navy was scarcely involved in either the first or second Civil War, it effectively ensured that events went the way of Cromwell's parliamentarians. By refusing to declare for the King in the early war years, the navy ensured that he could not summon military help by sea from continental allies.

By the time of Cromwell the British navy, such as it was, had declined sadly from its glory days of 1588 when it saw off the Spanish Armada. Cromwell's claim to be founder of what we now know as the Royal Navy lies in his wresting the ships from Charles I upon the royalist defeat and turning them into a force that had no doubt it was



Alfred the Great, left, is usually thought of as the founder of the British navy, but its might declined under Charles I. The navy was restored to its former glory by Oliver Cromwell and his "general at sea" Robert Blake, who triumphed over the Dutch

fighting for the state rather than an individual. He felt he owed the navy a favour after it had withheld its own favours from Charles I and put considerable money and effort into building it up.

He did so by levying a far more punitive ship tax than Charles I would ever have dared to do. But, being Cromwell and in undisputed

control of the power levers of state, he got away with it. There were political reasons for doing so. In control but unpopular at home for the Commonwealth government's puritanical laws and military rule, Cromwell sought a diversion. He found it in Holland, once an oppressed Protestant ally but increasingly an ambitious and dan-

gerous commercial rival. By 1652, the English and Dutch fleets were skirmishing in the Channel.

The English were at a disadvantage, as most of their experienced naval commanders were royalists. To crew and defend his ships, Cromwell dispatched 1,200 footsoldiers of his New Model Army to fight at sea; they survive

today as the Royal Marines. To command his ships, he drew generals from the army and created them "generals at sea".

One of them, Robert Blake, is still remembered as one of England's naval heroes, restoring the navy to its 1588 reputation by defeating the Dutch fleet commanded by one of that country's

most outstanding sailors, Marten van Tromp. Naval battles were traditionally a shambles, lacking tactics or strategy, but the generals at sea changed all that. Trained as cavalymen or infantry commanders, they ordered the ships to join battle in line, presenting an invincible wall to the enemy instead of darting around in undisciplined fashion picking off the foe wherever they could.

The royalist navy had been largely composed of merchant ships that tended to sail away at top speed if they saw the day going against them. Cromwell's navy sailed under new and revolutionary orders: all ships were answerable to the Commander of the Fleet, who was omnipotent in battle, and remains so. At the same time, the generals at sea had restored to them the rank of admiral.

In a letter written in 1654, Cromwell noted with some satisfaction that the navy consisted of no fewer than 160 ships. He was less pleased to note that it was costing £120,000 a year, and was tempted down the usual route of defence cuts. When the monarchy was restored in 1660, Charles II continued to engage the Dutchman at sea. But what the Stuarts were fighting with was a navy reshaped into a credible fighting force by their former arch-enemy and son of the inland county of Huntingdonshire.

Paul Gascoigne signs £20 transfer deal.



Our Paul Gascoigne found changing his bank account to Barclays was easy, easy, easy. You only have to sign your name and we do all the running around. We'll contact your existing bank, transfer all your direct debits and

standing orders and complete the new forms. Then, once your new account is up and running, we'll allow you two days a month in the red without penalties (we'll only charge interest). We'll also pass you £20. What a result.

For more information and to see how you can claim your £20 simply fill in this coupon or alternatively phone 0800 100 122, quoting ref: TS.

Name _____ Address _____

Postcode _____ Tel: _____ Return to: Barclays Bank PLC, Personal Banking, FREEPOST (BS4335), Bristol BS1 3YX.

AVAILABLE FOR PERSONAL CUSTOMERS ONLY AGED 18 OR OVER (20 IN JERSEY). SUBJECT TO STATUS. THE INTEREST RATE IS 1.4% PER MONTH, 18.8% EAR FOR UNAUTHORISED OVERDRAFTS AND 2.20% PER MONTH, 28.8% EAR FOR UNAUTHORISED OVERDRAFTS. INTEREST RATES MAY VARY. OVERDRAFTS ARE REPAYABLE ON DEMAND. FOR A WRITTEN QUOTATION, CALL 0800 100 122. BARCLAYS BANK PLC, REGISTERED IN ENGLAND, REG. NO. 2026107. REG. OFFICE: 54 LOMBARD STREET, LONDON EC3P 3AH. YOU MUST APPLY BEFORE 31ST OCTOBER 1996 TO CLAIM £20 INCENTIVE.



BARCLAYS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Girl, 16, is accused of 1992 killing

A girl of 16 was sent for trial yesterday, charged with the murder of an 18-year-old hairdresser four years ago. Katie Rackliff was stabbed 27 times in the attack in June, 1992.

The girl, who cannot be named, spoke only to give her name and address when she appeared before a youth court at Aldershot, Hampshire. She was remanded in custody to appear at Winchester Crown Court in October.

Miss Rackliff's body was found near the gates of a cemetery in Farnborough. She was last seen leaving Ragamuffins, a nightclub in Camberley, Surrey, after being spurned by her boyfriend.

Cyclist swept up

A cyclist was seriously ill in hospital after being caught in the metal brushes of a road-sweeping vehicle. Derek Edwards, 54, of Acocis Green, Birmingham, who was dragged along underneath the machine after colliding with it, was trapped for 40 minutes.

Constable bitten

A policeman had a little finger bitten off after allegedly being confronted by a motorist to whom he had given a parking ticket. The constable, aged 40, had the finger sewn back in hospital after the attack in Oxford. A man aged 36 is due to appear in court next month.

GP sex charges

A GP has been charged with indecently assaulting four women patients at his surgery. Graham Reynolds, 53, who is married, has resigned from his practice in Huntingdon. He will appear before magistrates next month. The alleged offences date back to 1984.

Golf-ball victim

A 15-year-old girl lost several teeth and suffered a swollen lip when a golf ball flew through the window of a car in which she was a passenger. Police believe the ball was mis-hit by a golfer practising near by as there are no golf courses at the accident spot in Crawley, West Sussex.

Royal master

The son born last month to the Queen's niece, Lady Sarah Chatto, will be called Samuel David Benedict Chatto, Kensington Palace announced. He is fourteenth in line to the throne, but as his father Daniel Chatto has no title, will be known simply as Master Samuel.

Taken aback

A cabbie was so surprised when he saw a photograph of himself aged eight in an advertisement on the side of a bus that he almost crashed into it. The picture of Robert Wright, 54, from Chelmsford, Essex, was taken by London Transport on a day trip to the seaside in 1947.

CORRECTION

The birth weight of the premature baby Sophie Proud (photograph and report, August 15) was 1lb 9oz and not 9oz as stated.

Father of two filmed their nanny in secret

A BUSINESSMAN who set up a video camera to film his children's nanny in the lavatory was ordered yesterday to pay more than £6,600 compensation.

Clive Wade, 37, hid the camera in a swimming bag in the toilet used by Louise Payne and put laxative into a sandwich. She had begun working for him after his wife left him.

Mrs Payne, now 24, and cleaner, Patricia Errook, played the videotape after noticing the lens poking out of the bag. They saw frames of Wade, dressed in pyjamas, altering the angle of the camera to get the best shots.

Both left their jobs the same day and Mrs Payne claimed unfair dismissal. An industrial tribunal ruled that the case was an extreme example of sexual discrimination.

Donald Cowling, chairman of the panel, said: "It is difficult to imagine conduct more demeaning than for a male employer to assemble video equipment in order to spy on his female employees."

Mrs Payne of Eynsham, Oxfordshire, also claimed that she discovered a video camera in a bedroom cupboard after Wade had asked her to try on a football strip. When she played the tape, it also showed footage of a female neighbour as she bent over her car.

Mrs Payne was employed by Wade, who ran a fitted kitchen business, to look after his two sons. Her father, John Evans, said that she may now take civil action against Wade.

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



WIN AN £19,550 JEEP CHEROKEE

£30,000 of prizes for parents and pupils to be won in our Back to School competition

PLUS The £100 prize Jumbo crossword Vision, 7-day TV and radio guide including the best of Bank Holiday entertainment

Is your Car insurance over £300?

ADMIRAL Call now 0800 600 800

Earthli
by em

W

Soccer clu
ban on av
fans may
breaking

A B

an

ship

by the

Official

the

United

visits

matches

a re

As

"We

an

ag

Pr

an

we

is

an

two

dis

should

with

u

consider

extra

public

Follow

we

which

cl

follo

Sund

the

paid

Police

en

is

the

man

the

the

pro

has

this

page

2

and

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

Earthlings unimpressed by ember from Mars

Well, it's very, very, very tiny, isn't it? sniffed Clare Hollis discouragingly. Not the sort of words that any man likes to hear, frankly. Let alone a top cosmic scientist who is proudly parading the best evidence so far that there might once have been life on Mars.

Yesterday the Natural History Museum allowed us Earthlings to glimpse a chunk of Martian meteorite, part of that Antarctic batch that led Nasa to the thrilling hypothesis that microscopic bacteria may once have roamed on Mars.

Mars looks very much like these scraps of half-burnt coal you might scrape out of the grate in the morning. The piece, the Natural History Museum has on loan is 7mm across and weighs about a tenth of a gram. The museum does not have a microscope powerful enough to detect possible fossilised bacteria. But as part of a temporary exhibition in its Earth Galleries, the museum has set up a microscope that magnifies



Joe Joseph feels little sense of wonder as the Natural History Museum proudly unveils its microscopic piece of extraterrestrial life

the rock 80-fold on to a video screen, making it look like an enlarged piece of half-burnt coal.

"I've seen *Independence Day*," says Clare, who is on holiday from Peterborough, "and it's a bit more exciting than that." Dr Robert Hutchison, the museum's top cosmic mineralogist, is too busy protecting his fragment of Martian rock from hussling newspaper photographers — Britain's own form of alien life — to mourn for long over Clare's disappointment.

The snappers want him to take the rock outdoors, where the light is better. Dr Hutchison is in a panic: "I don't think we can let it out of the building. It belongs to Nasa. I don't want it exposed

to the polluted London atmosphere." They want him to hold it up here, down there, under a magnifying glass, by his nose, up to his eye, next to a 5p coin. You could see him pining for the more upscale life-form of fossilised Martian bacteria. It was a photo opportunity, Jim, but not as the genteel curators of the Natural History Museum know it.

So what does this four-billion-year-old sliver of meteorite prove? "I'm not sure that it proves anything," says Dr Hutchison. "The head of the Nasa team, Dave Mackay, is a very respected scientist, so his exciting findings must be taken seriously. But I think it's very unlikely that there

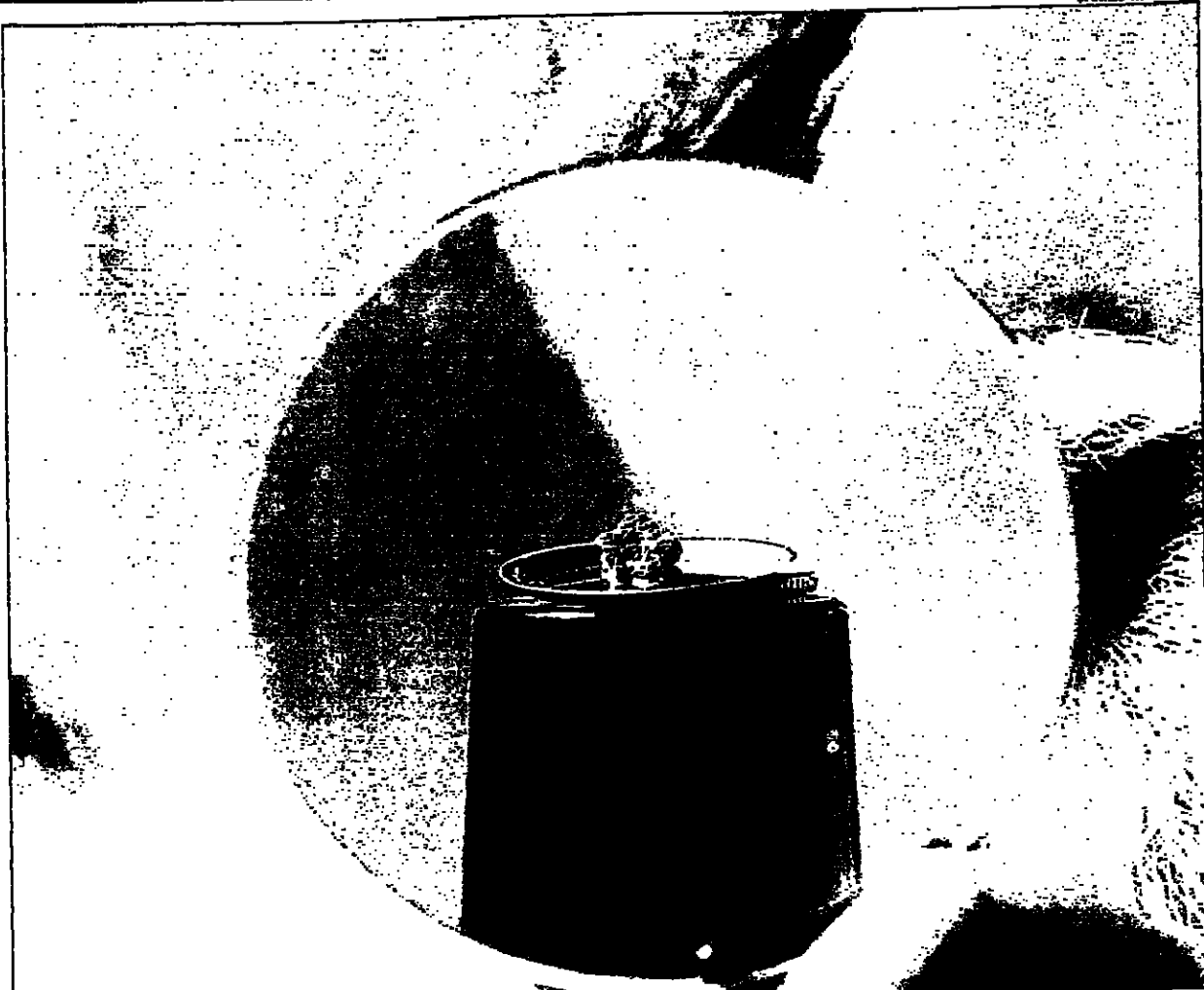
was intelligent life on Mars. I think we would have found evidence by now."

Vincent Fenech, on holiday from Malta, could take the rock or leave it: "Well, it's nice to see a bit of another planet, but it's not that exciting to look at, really. If there was life on Mars," adds Mr Fenech, who turns out to be an evangelical parson, "God wouldn't have let it turn into that!"

Across the street, visitors to the Victoria and Albert Museum were also getting their first glimpse of something which, although old, had barely a few months of bottle age compared with Nasa's Martian meteorite. "Its antiquity is the interesting thing," explained Lily Newbery, gazing at the newly acquired 12th-century Becket casket.

"The colour is just lovely. Martian rock? I wouldn't bother going to see that. This casket moves me, but something from outer space, well there's no excitement there for me. I'm afraid."

Call it one small victory for Art over Nature.



Dr Robert Hutchison magnifying the sliver of rock. He thinks it unlikely there was intelligent life on Mars

Soccer clubs' ban on away fans may be breaking law

By PAUL WILKINSON

A BAN on away football fans attending matches between two neighbouring Premiership sides is to be investigated by the Office of Fair Trading. Officials will consider whether the decision by Newcastle United and Sunderland to bar visiting supporters from matches against each other is a restrictive practice.

An OFT spokesman said: "We are wondering if there is an agreement here which contravenes the Restrictive Trade Practices Act. There might be an impact on competition and we are looking at that. If there is an agreement between the two clubs, it may be that it should have been registered with us. We also have to consider, if such an agreement exists, whether it is in the public interest."

Followers of both teams were outraged at the move, which is intended to prevent clashes between rival fans. It followed the promotion of Sunderland to the Premiership last season and is supported by Northumbria Police. Away fans will have to go to their own grounds to watch the games live on huge television screens.

The ban has resulted in the Tyneside and Wearside supporters, whose grounds are less than 13 miles apart, putting aside a century of rivalry and forming Wear United, an action group opposed to the restriction. A petition attracted 25,000 signatures and 11 fans from each side walked between Roker Park in Sunderland and St James's Park in Newcastle in a show of unity.

Steve Wraith, 23, a Wear United member and Newcastle fan, said: "It is a denial of civil liberties to deny Newcastle fans access to Roker Park and vice versa. The OFT involvement is welcome but despite the petition,

fan march and rallies in both cities, we are left fighting an invisible enemy. Neither club or the police will say just whose idea the ban was in the first place."

The fans feel they are being punished for the actions of a small hooligan element from both sides who have caused trouble in the past. The first derby match is on September 3 at Roker Park. It is unlikely the OFT inquiry will be complete before then and possible that it will not have reached a conclusion by the return game on April 5. The OFT spokesman said: "We cannot say how long any inquiry takes, but it is likely to be months rather than weeks."

Sunderland fans have been told that they face a life ban if they pass on their tickets to Newcastle followers who cause trouble at the game. Newcastle fans who do get in have been told they face eviction "for their own safety".

Fred Chambers, Sunderland's safety executive and a former deputy chief constable with Northumbria Police, said: "The presence of any Newcastle fans at the match could be considered inflammatory. We may have to protect the individual, which could mean them having to leave the ground."

Northumbria Police have been criticised for their handling of derby matches in recent years, insisting they be played at noon on Sundays, despite such cities as Glasgow, Liverpool and Manchester keeping the traditional 3pm Saturday kick-off.

Deputy Chief Constable David Mellish said the ban was "not a decision made by Northumbria Police. But given the circumstances which exist, we support it as a sensible measure."

Football, pages 40, 41, 44

Supplier fined over abbey wine

THE supplier of Buckfast Wine, the sweet tonic wine that takes its name from the abbey in Devon, was fined £3,000 by magistrates after it admitted that some of the drink was not made by monks.

The wine is produced by Benedictine monks and sold around the world. But trading standards investigators found that some export bottles had never been to the abbey, despite a label saying "Made by Benedictine monks. Buckfast Abbey".

Magistrates were told that French wine was used as the base for the drink. It was usually taken to the abbey to have a secret recipe of spices added by the monks. However, 32,700 bottles destined for the Caribbean were imported to Bristol and bottled at Dorchester.

Caroline Gibson, for the

defence, said the error arose when efforts were made to comply with duty-free regulations that stated the drink had to be produced in a bonded warehouse. "The final mixing of the wine takes place near Bristol, but the ingredients on the label are made up at the abbey and sent to the producer." She said the labels had been changed to read, "Made to an original recipe of the monks of Buckfast Abbey".

J. Chandler and Co. of Dorchester, admitted two counts of applying a false description on the labels. Tony Joyce, a director of the company, described the prosecution as an overreaction to a minor mistake. "A friendly phone call would have sufficed."

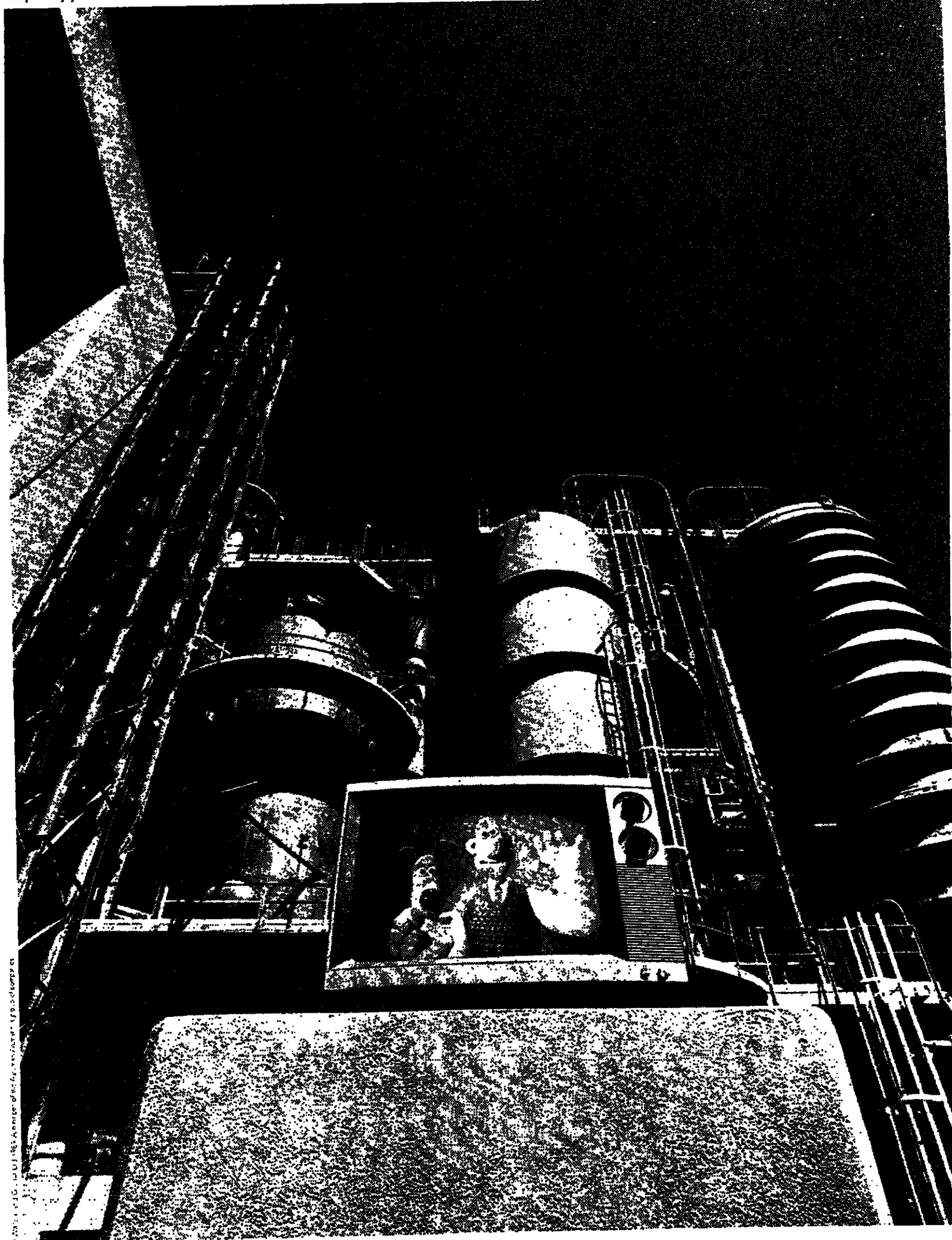
Worldwide sales of the wine, 15 per cent alcohol by volume, total £10 million a year. The abbey attracts 400,000 visitors a year.

The art of stop frame animation is slow. Very slow. Eight hours of action for three seconds of film. Little by little the animators at Aardman work on each tiny joint of each tiny plasticine figure, taking a year to make a thirty minute film.

This makes them a breed all of their own, rather like those people who help to finance them: the BBC. And it's thanks to you, the British public, and the unique way you fund it, that the BBC is able to support award winning radio and

television programmes like 'A Close Shave', which won Wallace and Gromit and their creator Nick Park a second Oscar for Best Animated Film this year.

If you would like to know more about the various ways your money has been spent, the BBC Annual Report is available from good book shops and libraries. And like the stop frame animators, little by little, the BBC will continue to improve on what it does best. With your help, of course.



One industry in which Britain still leads the rest of the world.

PLASTICINE.

Gummer announces targets for reducing pollution from vehicles by 2005

Cleaner air will add millions to cost of shopping

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

REDUCING air pollution will make road transport more expensive over the next ten years, the Environment Secretary said yesterday.

John Gummer, announcing the Government's national air quality strategy, confirmed that tougher European Union vehicle emission standards would be central to reducing the fumes of eight pollutants in British cities by 2005, as stipulated by the air quality strategy. The new EU standards, to be phased in over the next few years, will push the price of a small family car up by £180 and a big heavy-goods vehicle by about £1,530, according to department officials.

Prices in the shops could well rise because of the higher costs of transporting goods. About 10 per cent of the price of groceries reflects the cost of transport; for beer, the proportion is up to a third.

Roger King, of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said yesterday that most of the additional cost would be for catalytic converters that could operate within five seconds of the car starting, rather than the two minutes it

currently takes; 8 per cent of the pollution from cars occurs in the first few minutes when the catalyst is too cold to operate.

A litre of petrol, the price of which is already rising every year by 5 per cent above inflation as part of measures to counter global warming, will cost a quarter of a penny more, and diesel will cost 0.16 pence more.

It is estimated that the measures against air pollution will add between £85 million and £90 million a year to the costs of road freight. The Freight Transport Association said it was inevitable that these price rises would be passed on to industry and consumers.

Meeting the new national air quality strategy, could also lead to job losses in the oil industry. British refineries, which use a different process than some continental competitors, will have to invest £1 billion on upgrading their facilities to process new, cleaner fuels. Dr Malcolm Watson, of the United Kingdom Petroleum Industries Association, said some refineries might close, if

oil companies consider the investment costs too high.

The Environmental Transport Association said that motorists should be prepared to help fund wider environmental improvements. Research by economists at the University of London indicates that cars, buses, taxis and lorries cost society £50 billion in spending on the damage to buildings and ill health caused. Yet motorists pay only £16 billion in fuel and road duty. Andrew Davis, the association's director, urged the Government to triple the tax on motoring.

But Mr Gummer said there was little evidence that increasing motoring taxes reduced car usage. He claimed that higher petrol prices acted as a green tax only in that they led car-manufacturers to attract buyers by making more fuel-efficient engines.

Mr Gummer said new powers for local authorities would be announced later in the year. Under the strategy, it is confirmed that councils will be allowed to stop cars and test their emissions if a police officer is present. Councils



John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, yesterday at the wheel of a Rover 827 converted by Conoco Fuels to run on liquefied petroleum gas

might also be given powers to impose heavy taxes on non-resident car parking, to deter commuters from using their cars. Buses might be banned from certain streets unless they burn cleaner diesels.

Mr Gummer also has reserve powers, by which councils could close roads when pollution is particularly high. However, such moves are unlikely, as they could aggravate traffic jams and shift the pollution to other areas. Instead, there will be more pedestrianisation.

The Environment Secretary arrived at his office yesterday in a Rover 827 converted by Conoco Fuels, part of Jet, to run on liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). An official said that ministers were evaluating several environmentally friendly vehicles including an electric Ford Van-EcoStar and a car powered by compressed natural gas. The LPG Rover uses a propane-based fuel.

Pilot, 74, killed as gliders crash over Cotswolds

By Emma Wilkins

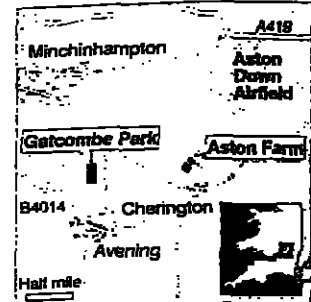
A PILOT died yesterday after a collision between two gliders over an estate in Gloucestershire owned by the Princess Royal. The other pilot parachuted to safety with minor cuts and bruises.

The dead man was named last night as Leslie Akehurst, 74, of Thrupp, near Stroud, a former Wing Commander who won the OBE for his role as a senior air traffic controller during the Berlin airlift. The other pilot was Geoff Fellowes, 45, a builder, from Chippenham, Wiltshire. Both were members of the Cotswold Gliding Club.

Mr Fellowes walked a mile across fields on the Gatcombe Park estate to the gliding club office at Aston Down airfield, where he summoned help. The estate is managed by the Princess's former husband, Captain Mark Phillips. Debris from the gliders was scattered over the grounds of his 18th-century farmhouse.

Captain Phillips, who was watching the couple's daughter, Zara, compete at a pony club event in Shropshire yesterday, said: "I am very sorry to hear about this terrible accident and I would like to pass on my sympathy to the families of those involved."

A joint investigation by the Department of Transport and the British Gliding Association will examine why the pilots were flying so close



together, said Superintendent Adrian Grimmett, police divisional commander at Stroud. One of the gliders disintegrated and fell to the ground "like confetti", according to one witness. David Webb, 40, a painter, was sitting in his car having a tea break while working outside a cottage in Cherington, less than a mile from the crash. "As I got out of my car there was this big bang. I looked up and there were bits flying everywhere."

A local coroner was at the scene while firemen from Stroud were involved in a search of the wreckage. A police helicopter was scrambled in the hope of taking survivors to hospital.

The Cotswold escarpment is popular with gliding enthusiasts. It is believed that the crash was at about 1,500ft, and David Roberts, secretary of the club, said the survivor was "very lucky" to have baled out successfully. He said that the club had run for almost 30 years with no serious injury.

Swiss Army knife death on flight

By Emma Wilkins

A DOCTOR stabbed himself to death with a Swiss Army penknife on a British Airways flight from London to Geneva. Alain Monnier, 34, who was Swiss, took the 2½-in blade from his pocket and severed an artery in his groin as the aircraft landed.

A passenger alerted cabin crew and a doctor on board assisted them until Swiss paramedics arrived, but Mr Monnier died on his way to hospital. BA had been told by his wife before the flight that he had psychological problems, but he had told them that he was fine. A BA spokesman said that Mr Monnier, who was returning from Los Angeles via London, had appeared to be entirely normal.

Swiss police questioned BA staff before allowing them on the scheduled return flight to London. Security regulations were not breached because passengers are allowed to carry knives with blades shorter than 3in.

Lonely wife caused M6 lorry scare

By Paul Wilkinson

A WIFE pining for her husband was to blame for a security alert that closed a motorway for five hours and caused an 18-mile tailback.

Anti-terrorist police hunting the Manchester bombers went to Knutsford service station on the M6 last month after an officer believed an Irish lorry driver's licence had been tampered with. Cheshire police say that the driver's wife had cut out the photograph from the licence and replaced it with another because she wanted the picture as a keepsake while her husband was away.

The driver was arrested and questioned for several hours. The motorway was closed while bomb-disposal experts examined a box welded to the chassis of the vehicle, but it was found to be an extra fuel tank.

Cheshire police said: "The photograph on the licence did not bear an official stamp. We could not afford to be wrong."

Dixons PC PRICE CRASH

PLUS NO DEPOSIT 9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*



PACKARD BELL 909D P100 PENTIUM® MULTIMEDIA PC
 • 100MHz Intel Pentium® processor.
 • 8Mb RAM.
 • 850Mb hard drive.
 • Quad-speed CD-ROM drive.
 • 28.8 kbps fax modem.
 • 1Mb Video RAM.
 Was £1699.

SAVE £200
Dixons Deal
£1499

FREE PACKARD BELL SOFTWARE PACKAGE WITH THESE PCs

- OVER 35 TITLES including 21 on CD-ROM.
- BUSINESS TITLES including Lotus Organizer, Microsoft Money and Microsoft Works, with data base, word processing and spreadsheet tools.
- 16 EDUCATION AND REFERENCE TITLES, including Learn French with Asterix, Land and Air, and 3D Body.
- 6 GAMES TITLES, including Virtual Pool.
- COMPUSERVE SOFTWARE to let you surf the Internet (on fax modem machines).

WORTH OVER £1000

PACKARD BELL 923D P100 PENTIUM MULTIMEDIA PC
 • 100MHz Intel Pentium® processor.
 • 8Mb RAM.
 • 1Gb hard drive.
 • Quad-speed CD-ROM drive.
 • 1Mb Video RAM.
 Was £1599.

SAVE £200
Dixons Deal
£1399

PACKARD BELL 924C P120 PENTIUM MULTIMEDIA PC
 • 120MHz Intel Pentium® processor.
 • 8Mb RAM.
 • 1Gb hard drive.
 • 50-speed CD-ROM drive.
 • 28.8 kbps fax modem.
 Was £1899.

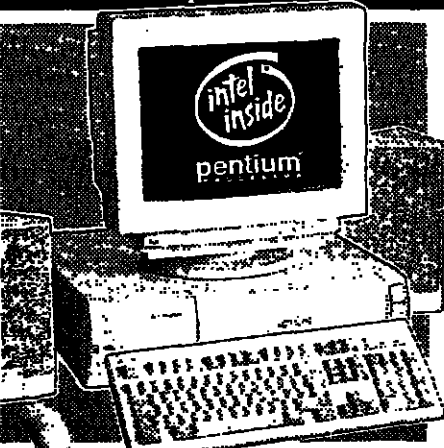
SAVE £200
Dixons Deal
£1699

PACKARD BELL 916 P133 PENTIUM MULTIMEDIA PC
 • 133MHz Intel Pentium® processor.
 • 8Mb RAM.
 • 1.2Gb hard drive.
 • 50-speed CD-ROM drive.
 • 28.8 kbps fax modem.
 Was £1999.

SAVE £200
Dixons Deal
£1799

*Value based on separate selling price of actual or equivalent software. Free value of software not included for pre-installed software. Only available with new Packard Bell PCs. In the advertisement are pre-installed with software. The software boxes featured above are for illustration purposes only (Fax modem model only).

apricot - SAVE UP TO £250



APRICOT P75 PENTIUM® MULTIMEDIA PC
 • 75MHz Intel Pentium® Processor.
 • 8Mb RAM and 850Mb hard drive.
 • Quad-speed CD-ROM drive.
 Was £1499.

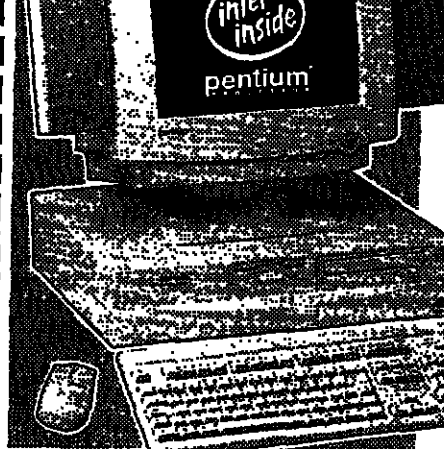
SAVE £200
Dixons Deal
£1299



APRICOT P120 PENTIUM® MULTIMEDIA PC
 • 120MHz Intel Pentium® Processor.
 • 8Mb RAM and 1.2Gb hard drive.
 • Quad-speed CD-ROM drive.
 • 14.4 kbps fax modem.
 • 1Mb Video RAM.
 Was £1849.

SAVE £250
Dixons Deal
£1599

SAVE UP TO £250 WITH THIS VOUCHER



COMPAQ 7220 P100 PENTIUM® MULTIMEDIA PC
 • 100MHz Intel Pentium® processor.
 • 8Mb RAM and 1Gb hard drive.
 • Quad-speed CD-ROM drive.
 • 14.4 kbps fax modem.
 Was £1599.

SAVE A TOTAL OF £200
VOUCHER PRICE
£1399



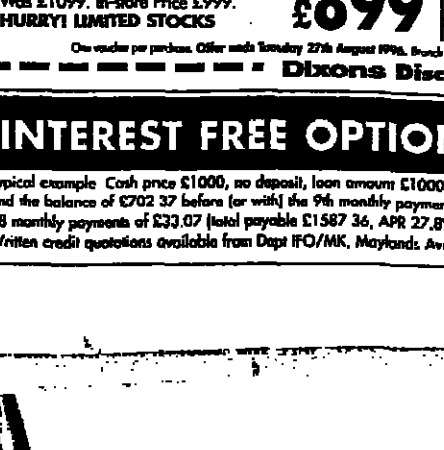
COMPAQ 7230 P120 PENTIUM® MULTIMEDIA PC
 • 120MHz Intel Pentium® processor.
 • 8Mb RAM and 1Gb hard drive.
 • Quad-speed CD-ROM drive.
 • 14.4 kbps fax modem.
 Was £1699.

SAVE A TOTAL OF £200
VOUCHER PRICE
£1499



ADVENT 7021 P75 PENTIUM® MULTIMEDIA PC
 • 75MHz Intel Pentium® processor.
 • 8Mb RAM.
 • 1Gb hard drive.
 • 14.4 kbps fax modem.
 Was £1199.

SAVE A TOTAL OF £250
VOUCHER PRICE
£949



ADVENT 4020 DX4/100 MULTIMEDIA PC
 • DX4/100 processor.
 • 4Mb RAM.
 • 540Mb hard drive.
 • Quad-speed CD-ROM drive.
 Was £1249.

SAVE A TOTAL OF £150
VOUCHER PRICE
£699



ADVENT 5020 CYRIX 586/100 MULTIMEDIA PC
 • Cyrix 586/100 processor.
 • 8Mb RAM and 540Mb hard drive.
 • Quad-speed CD-ROM drive.
 Was £1249.

SAVE A TOTAL OF £150
VOUCHER PRICE
£799

ADVENT 7100 P100 PENTIUM® MULTIMEDIA PC
 • 100MHz Intel Pentium® processor.
 • 8Mb RAM and 1Gb hard drive.
 • Quad-speed CD-ROM drive.
 • 14.4 kbps fax modem.
 Was £1249.

SAVE A TOTAL OF £150
VOUCHER PRICE
£1099

INTEREST FREE OPTION ON ALL PCs
 Typical example: Cash price £1000, no deposit, loan amount £1000. Either pay 0 monthly payments of £33.07 and the balance of £1002.37 before (or with) the 18th monthly payment (total payable £1000, APR 0%).
 APR 27.8%
 Written credit quotations available from Dept FO/MK, Nayland Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 7TG.

THE TIMES Subscriptions

The Times will match any subscription offer you receive from other daily national newspapers.

For further details please call us FREE on the following number:

FREEPHONE 0800 120 130
 Mon to Fri 9am to 6pm, Sat 9am to 3pm

Offer available in the UK only

Call for...
 Vocation...
 draw p...
 history a...

TOMORROW
 THE A-LEVEL
 TOP 600
 LEAGUE

PRIN...
 SAVE

HEWLETT
 PACKARD

HEWLETT
 PACKARD

Canon

CANON

CANON

CANON

CANON

CANON

CANON

CANON

CANON

Call for compulsory subjects

Vocational courses draw pupils from history and classics

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

HISTORY teachers called for the subject to be compulsory after it was disclosed that nearly 13,000 fewer students sat history GCSE this year. The 5.3 per cent drop in candidates came at a time when the total number of 16-year-olds rose by 3 per cent.

Linked subjects also showed a decrease. Entries in GCSE classical civilisation were down 21 per cent, in Greek 19 per cent and in Latin 6 per

cent. Sciences showed an increase, however, with 6.9 per cent more candidates for chemistry, 6.1 per cent for physics and 5.9 per cent for biology. GCSE entries in English, English literature and mathematics were similar in last year, allowing for the increase in the number of 16-year-olds.

The biggest drop in candidates was for technology, which had more than 100,000 (30 per cent) fewer entries as a result of the national curriculum change in 1994 that made it no longer compulsory after the age of 14. A knock-on effect was an increase in popularity for home economics (up 7.7 per cent), business studies (33.4 per cent) and computing (13.1 per cent). Extra room in the timetable created by removing the compulsory study technology also encouraged a revival in music GCSE, with 10 per cent more candidates.

The growing popularity of vocational courses available at 14 was a significant factor in the decline of history and the classics, the School Curriculum and Assessment Author-

ity said. The Historical Association said that children were being encouraged to specialise too early and that they were at risk of missing out on a broad education if history were not made compulsory up to 16, instead of up to 14 as at present.

Michael Riley, a committee member of the association, said: "Many schools have dropped the compulsion to do a humanities subject at GCSE which I think is a huge loss in terms of producing children who have had a balanced education right up to the age of 16."

"History has a central role to play in terms of the way it develops children's thinking skills and their wider understanding of the nature of evidence, as well as citizenship issues and social and moral development."

A spokeswoman for the curriculum and assessment authority said: "The number of A to C grades achieved at history, which has gone up by 2.2 per cent, would tend to indicate that the people doing it are those with a real strength in it as opposed to



The number of students sitting GCSE history fell by 13,000. About 100,000 fewer sat technology

those who do it to fill an option."

Head teachers said the big drop in GCSE entries for technology, viewed by many schools as the fourth most important area after the three core subjects of English, mathematics and science, was a result of poor facilities in schools. The Confederation of

British Industry also expressed concern. Dominic Cadbury, the chairman of Cadbury Schweppes and of the CBI's education and training affairs committee, said: "We hope these difficulties can be overcome. Individuals will find it hard to thrive in the companies of tomorrow without a grasp of technology and

GCSE RESULTS										
Subject	No of Candidates	Cumulative percentage of candidates gaining grade or better	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Art and Design	228,882	4.6	16.9	34.3	59.2	77.9	90.4	96.9	99.5	
	(212,478)	(4.1)	(16.1)	(32.9)	(57.2)	(76.1)	(89.5)	(96.8)	(99.4)	
Business Studies	114,119	2.1	9.8	23.7	49.1	69.5	81.9	91.3	96.3	
	(89,516)	(1.9)	(9.7)	(23.6)	(48.2)	(67.6)	(83.1)	(92.8)	(98.0)	
Computing/Info Systems	56,134	2.7	11.4	30.3	55.3	70.3	85.8	93.4	97.1	
	(58,486)	(2.0)	(9.9)	(26.8)	(52.2)	(71.0)	(84.2)	(92.4)	(96.6)	
English	663,009	2.0	11.0	30.3	56.8	78.6	90.5	97.2	99.5	
	(646,480)	(1.8)	(10.8)	(30.3)	(56.9)	(78.9)	(90.8)	(97.3)	(99.5)	
English Literature	491,850	2.7	13.9	36.2	63.2	81.1	92.1	97.8	99.5	
	(475,297)	(2.6)	(13.6)	(36.7)	(63.7)	(83.0)	(91.8)	(97.8)	(99.5)	
French	342,781	4.4	19.2	33.8	51.0	69.2	82.7	93.8	99.3	
	(340,144)	(4.3)	(18.7)	(33.9)	(50.3)	(68.3)	(81.8)	(93.5)	(99.2)	
Geography	302,298	4.0	15.6	33.5	53.7	70.9	84.5	92.7	98.2	
	(295,229)	(3.8)	(14.9)	(32.2)	(51.8)	(69.3)	(83.7)	(93.2)	(98.0)	
German	132,212	5.2	12.2	36.9	55.5	73.1	85.1	94.6	99.2	
	(128,848)	(5.0)	(12.3)	(36.9)	(54.7)	(72.2)	(84.2)	(93.5)	(99.2)	
History	228,808	4.1	16.5	36.8	56.9	72.0	83.8	92.4	97.6	
	(228,524)	(3.4)	(14.9)	(34.5)	(54.7)	(70.2)	(82.6)	(91.7)	(97.3)	
Home Economics	87,340	1.5	8.7	23.4	43.2	64.0	81.9	93.2	98.1	
	(84,769)	(1.3)	(8.2)	(22.5)	(41.9)	(62.2)	(80.4)	(92.7)	(98.0)	
Latin	12,174	21.0	54.6	77.0	85.3	90.9	96.5	99.2		
	(12,952)	(19.6)	(56.2)	(79.4)	(92.2)	(95.9)	(99.2)	(99.9)		
Mathematics	691,111	2.0	9.0	23.3	46.5	62.9	78.7	91.3	97.8	
	(667,908)	(1.8)	(8.5)	(21.7)	(44.8)	(62.0)	(78.2)	(91.0)	(97.6)	
Music	41,891	6.9	24.9	48.5	69.2	82.0	90.9	96.5	99.2	
	(37,606)	(5.9)	(24.1)	(47.7)	(68.5)	(81.0)	(90.0)	(96.0)	(99.1)	
Physical Education	78,537	3.9	12.8	27.7	46.4	70.5	87.7	96.2	99.2	
	(68,114)	(4.0)	(12.7)	(27.1)	(45.2)	(69.7)	(87.0)	(95.9)	(99.0)	
Religious Studies	118,549	4.4	16.4	32.3	55.9	70.6	82.7	91.6	96.9	
	(108,059)	(3.5)	(15.7)	(33.3)	(58.7)	(71.4)	(83.7)	(92.4)	(97.5)	
Science: Biology	48,276	10.5	33.5	63.8	83.4	92.5	97.2	99.0	99.2	
	(45,578)	(8.6)	(32.0)	(62.2)	(82.4)	(91.9)	(96.8)	(98.8)	(99.0)	
Science: Chemistry	46,885	11.5	34.2	63.6	86.0	94.0	97.5	99.0	99.2	
	(43,846)	(11.0)	(32.4)	(61.6)	(84.0)	(92.8)	(97.0)	(98.9)	(99.2)	
Science: Combined	397,422	3.1	10.2	27.8	48.2	69.8	86.1	95.4	98.4	
	(376,842)	(3.4)	(10.0)	(27.3)	(47.4)	(69.2)	(86.2)	(95.6)	(98.5)	
Science: Physics	46,446	13.3	35.3	66.5	85.3	92.9	97.0	98.8	99.0	
	(43,784)	(12.9)	(34.0)	(64.8)	(85.2)	(93.0)	(96.8)	(98.4)	(99.6)	
Spanish	42,592	7.7	28.3	43.4	58.4	74.0	84.4	94.1	99.0	
	(40,591)	(6.7)	(26.3)	(43.0)	(58.7)	(73.7)	(83.9)	(93.4)	(98.6)	
Technology	245,132	1.7	8.9	25.5	45.8	66.1	82.6	93.5	98.4	
	(249,971)	(1.3)	(7.6)	(23.2)	(44.1)	(63.9)	(81.0)	(92.6)	(98.2)	
All Major Subjects	5,075,143	3.4	13.6	31.5	53.7	72.4	86.0	94.8	98.6	
	(4,971,667)	(3.2)	(13.0)	(30.7)	(52.7)	(71.5)	(85.5)	(94.6)	(98.6)	

its importance." Design technology and information technology will again become compulsory from the age of 14 to 16 in September, although pupils will be able to choose to take a new short-course GCSE, which will take only half the time of a full certificate.

The Secondary Heads Association

was more worried by the decline in history. "This will be a course for concern, if it continues."

Results in Wales were better than those in England, following last week's A-level trend. The percentage of A to C grades in the principal was 54.1 per cent, compared with 53.7 per cent in England.

Maths and sciences strong as grades rise

By DAVID CHARTER

MATHEMATICS grades recovered yesterday, with the number achieving a grade C — the equivalent of an O-level pass — or better rising to 46.5 per cent from last year's 44.8 per cent. Last year was the only year since GCSEs were introduced in 1988 that the percentage had not risen.

Top grades in English GCSE remained static, as did the overall percentage of candidates with grade G or better, leading examining boards and schools to assert that standards were just as rigorous as in previous years. In mathematics papers set by the Southern Examining Group, which awarded a C for a score of 14 per cent on a difficult paper for those aiming for the top starred-A grade, 43.6 per cent of candidates achieved a C or better. The

Department for Education and Employment welcomed the results and said that it was continuing its own inquiry into the SEG paper. It said: "The minister has instructed officials to ask the board some searching questions."

Head teachers were disappointed with the slight drop in the percentage getting a C or better in both English and English literature. The examination format was kept the same as last year, when the 1 per cent drop in those getting a C or better in English was attributed to a 50,000 increase in the number of candidates. The number rose again this summer, by 16,500, in line with the greater number of 16-year-olds nationally.

However, the number of higher grades in sciences was up on last year from 51.8 per cent to 52.8 per cent, contributing to the rise of one

percentage point in those getting a C or better in the GCSE as a whole this year. Chemistry in particular showed a rise of two percentage points in those getting a C or better.

Other subjects where there were impressive rises in top grades included computing. Not only were there more candidates, but those getting a C or better rose three percentage points to 55.3 per cent.

Ancient Greek remained the subject with the highest rate of A and starred-A grades: 72.6 per cent of the 985 entrants. An A or better was achieved by more than half of the candidates in Italian, Russian and Latin. In modern languages as a whole, there were 524,738 candidates, up nearly 10,000 on last year, with 53.1 per cent gaining a grade C or better, compared with 52.4 per cent last year. Lord Henley, a junior Education

Minister, said: "I am particularly pleased to see significant improvements in science and maths results, areas crucial to national competitiveness. From this year, candidates will receive a separate grade for spoken English alongside their overall English grade. This underlines the importance for young people of good communication skills in adult life."

However, the Institute of Management said 60 per cent of its members felt that standards had dropped over the past ten years. More than 80 per cent of managers surveyed said that school leavers lacked essential work skills, with numeracy the biggest problem.

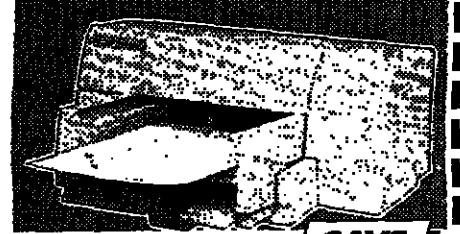
Doug McAvoy, the general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said concerns over GCSE had all been met: "GCSE critics should now pack their bags and skulk away."

PRINTERS SAVE UP TO £80

HEWLETT PACKARD - SAVE UP TO £30 WITH THIS VOUCHER
HURRY! OFFERS END TUESDAY



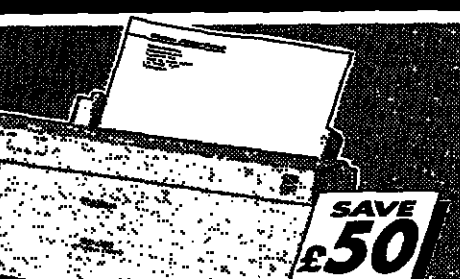
HEWLETT PACKARD
DESKJET 660C INKJET PRINTER
● Up to 4 pages per minute
● Easy to use
● Ideal for home/office use
In-store Price £199.99



HEWLETT PACKARD
DESKJET 660C INKJET COLOUR PRINTER
● Up to 4 pages per minute
● 600x600 dpi resolution
● Auto sheet feeder
In-store Price £299.99

Canon - SAVE UP TO £80

CANON
BJC400 INKJET COLOUR PRINTER
● Up to 3.8 pages per minute
● Up to 720 x 360 dpi resolution
● 100 sheet feeder
● High-quality printing in both colour and mono
FREE PRESSWORKS 2.0 SOFTWARE
Was £299.99, £279.99



£249.99



CANON
BJC30 PORTABLE INKJET PRINTER
● Up to 2 pages per minute
● 350K memory buffer
● 720 x 360 dpi resolution
Was £179.99



CANON
BJC70 PORTABLE COLOUR BUBBLEJET PRINTER
● Up to 3.3 pages per minute
● 360 x 360 dpi resolution
Was £279.99

SAVE A TOTAL OF £30 WITH THIS VOUCHER
HURRY! OFFER ENDS TUESDAY

CANON
BJC210 COLOUR BUBBLEJET PRINTER
● Up to 2.6 pages per minute
● 360 x 360 dpi resolution
● 100 auto sheet feeder
Was £199.99, In-store Price £179.99



£169.99

Dixons
There's a great deal going on

345 BRANCHES NATIONWIDE TEL: 0181-200 0200 FOR YOUR NEAREST BRANCH

Kent attack girl goes back home

Josephine Russell, who was left for dead by the killer of her mother and sister, returned home to Nonington, near Canterbury, to live with her father under a 24-hour police guard yesterday. Josephine, nine, was discharged from hospital after suffering serious head injuries in the attack six weeks ago. Her father, Dr Shaun Russell said: "Josie went into her sister's room and looked serious, but there were no tears."

Nightclub body

Police are trying to discover the identity of a young woman found dead by two 14-year-old sea cadets behind a nightclub at Edgbaston, Birmingham. Her body is thought to have been lying on the waste ground for up to five days.

Witness scheme

Scotland's first large-scale witness protection scheme is to be introduced by Strathclyde Police. No details were given for the experimental scheme, which is on the agenda at talks next week between police and Crown officials.

Young decoy

While a smartly-dressed boy aged about ten asked a 94-year-old woman living in a caravan at Ross-on-Wye, Hereford and Worcester, if he could use her lavatory, two men with him stole a shopping bag containing £1,000.

Joint account

Sunderland District General Hospital is asking hip replacement patients to donate their artificial joints after they die. A spokesman said that they would not be reused, but tested for wear and tear to improve future replacements.

Deer on the line

A straying reindeer was rescued after its antlers got stuck in a rotary washing line. Marmite has recovered after police and staff from Pennywell Farm animal centre, Buckfastleigh, Devon, freed it from the line in Luanne Levy's garden.

BIG savings rates.

	£500-£4,999	£5,000-£9,999	£10,000-£24,999	£25,000-£49,999	£50,000-£99,999
Direct Line Instant Access Account	4.50%	4.75%	5.50%	5.65%	5.75%
Halifax Solid Gold (90 Day Notice)	2.75%	3.05%	3.80%	4.30%	4.50%
Woolwich Premier 90 (90 Day Notice)	N/A	3.10%	3.85%	4.60%	4.85%
Yorkshire Building Society Key 90 Plus	N/A	N/A	4.20%	4.65%	5.15%

All rates are gross* and correct at 8th August 1996.

Are your savings growing too slowly? Then you should be saving with Direct Line. Take a look at the table and you'll see that our rates are higher than these building society 90 day accounts. What's more, with Direct Line you don't have to give 90 days notice because we offer instant access. So if you want more money for your money you know who to call.

0181 667 1121 LONDON 0161 833 1121 MANCHESTER 0141 221 1121 GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. TT44
Revised opening hours for Bank Holiday Monday 8am to 6pm.
Internet address: <http://www.directline.co.uk>

Savings provided by Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 250 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5SH, a member of the Direct Line Financial Services Group established under the Banking Act 1987 (as amended). Payments under the scheme are limited to 95% of a depositor's outstanding deposits subject to a maximum payment to any one depositor of £10,000 (or £20,000 if greater). Further details of the scheme are available on request. *The gross rate is the rate paid without the deduction of income tax. All rates shown are subject to variation and are based on annual payments of interest. For your added security, all telephone calls will be recorded and the recording kept secure. We may also monitor telephone calls with the aim of improving our service to you. Direct Line and the red telephone are the trademarks of Direct Line Insurance plc and used with the permission of Direct Line Insurance plc.

Cash cuts make science labs unsafe, say dons

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

UNIVERSITIES are breaking the law by conducting research in laboratories that fail to meet health and safety standards.

At Cambridge, the chemistry laboratory is "very close to the bone" on safety, according to Professor David King, the head of department. Four or five students are using fume cupboards meant for one.

At Manchester, the Dean of the School of Biological Sciences, Professor Mark Ferguson, cannot comply with the law on safety because there is no money for refurbishing laboratories. "We only update laboratories when we are about to be taken to court," he told a press conference in London yesterday, called by Save British Science to protest at cuts in equipment budgets.

At Imperial College physics department, said Professor Peter Knight, people were working in corridors and an entire laser laboratory had had to be closed because it could not meet safety standards; a small and crowded laboratory was being used instead.

Sir Derek Roberts, Provost

of University College London, accused ministers of "total dishonesty" in pretending that the cuts announced by Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, last November could be made up by appealing to private industry. Industry was prepared to help to finance research, but did not consider providing basic equipment to be part of its job.

Many university laboratories were built in the late 1950s and early 1960s, the scientists said. Few had had enough spent on them since then and faced huge bills just as the cuts were beginning to take effect. The campaign wants the cuts reversed, but Mrs Shephard has refused to meet a delegation to discuss the issue. "She is well-intentioned and nice," Sir Derek said, "but very badly advised."

Dr Peter Mobbs, a physiologist from UCL, said some of the equipment in his laboratories was so old that it was recently given to the Science Museum.

Degree vacancies, page 36



Tyrannosaurus Rex's bite has been found to be almost ten times as powerful as that of a wolf

T Rex bites back against softie slur by scientists

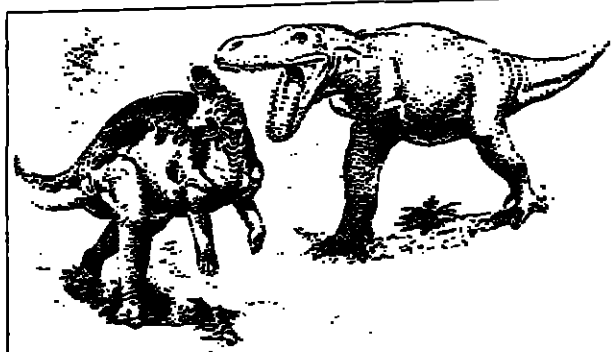
By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

SCIENTISTS have admitted what the public always suspected — that Tyrannosaurus Rex had a bite that matched its fearsome jaw.

In scientific circles, T rex has been in danger of being labelled a softie, better adapted to scavenging dead creatures than killing them with its slashing jaws. Debate about the dinosaur's predatory skills has been carried on for a century, with close examination of its teeth failing to settle the question. Some argued that they were strong and well-suited to killing herbivorous dinosaurs, while others contended that either the teeth or the jaws would fail.

Now Dr Gregory Erickson of the University of California at Berkeley and colleagues claim to have solved the question by simulating T rex's bite, using teeth marks found on the pelvic bones of a triceratops.

The bones, which were found in Hell Creek, Montana, show dozens of large bite marks. Casts of the deeper bites show that they were



Scars imply the dinosaur took an aggressive stance

made by the larger teeth of an adult T rex, but from the bites alone it is hard to gauge whether the teeth that made them were especially robust, they report in *Nature*.

Examination showed that the haunch bones of today's cattle have a similar microstructure to those of triceratops, a creature with three sharp horns. They mounted a section of cow bone in a frame, and penetrated it with a replica T rex tooth, made out of aluminium bronze.

The force needed to make holes comparable to those found in the triceratops's

bones was measured. For the deepest mark, this worked out at 6,410 newtons, which meant that other teeth further back in the mouth must have been able to produce forces as great as 13,400 newtons.

A Labrador can produce 550 newtons at its back teeth, a human jaw 749, a wolf 1,412, a dusky shark 1,446, and a lion 4,168. The only creature that comes close to matching T rex is the alligator, which can generate 13,300 newtons.

The results suggest, the team says, that the teeth of T rex were as strong as, and in most cases substantially stron-

ger than, any surviving creature. The similarity with the alligator extends to the shape and structure of the teeth, indicating that they must have functioned in a similar way.

Alligators use their teeth to kill large prey, and to fight other alligators during confrontations. The similarity is strengthened by the evidence of bony scars on the skulls of the adult T rex, implying that they may have been involved in a rough-and-tumble with rivals.

The evidence does not absolutely prove that T rex was the curse of the Cretaceous period 135 million years ago, when dinosaurs thrived. Since powerful jaws and teeth could also have been useful for scavenging carrion. But the team contends that if T rex could get into a position to bite, it could certainly bite to some purpose. Or, in more scientific language, "it could have exploited a predatory niche".

The team believes that bite marks, far more common than supposed, could be used for learning more about dinosaur teeth and their function, as well as testing the power of their jaws.

Royal aide forgives driver who killed wife

By Lin Jenkins

THE former royal aide Sir Conrad Swan watched yesterday as the motorist who killed his wife was jailed for nine months. Afterwards Sir Conrad, who was Garter Principal King of Arms, said that he forgave the driver.

Lady Hilda Swan, 58, died instantly when she was hit by Martin Milne's Porsche as she walked home to Boxwood House, Suffolk, after posting letters for her husband.

Milne, 28, a motor trader from Clacton, Essex, drove away after the crash in December and pretended that his car had been stolen. A month later his girlfriend told police the truth. He was jailed by Ipswich Crown Court on Tuesday after admitting careless driving and attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Sir Conrad, 71, who helped to organise state ceremonies, said that it was pointless to harbour bad feelings at his age. "We have to forgive, but we can't forget. My wife was a very loving and caring person and I would hope that she would agree with that sentiment. Nothing the court can do will bring back the mother of five children and 19 grandchildren."

Lady Hilda, daughter of the 3rd Earl of Idlesleigh, had been involved with the St John Ambulance Brigade and the Riding for the Disabled Association. She ran a summer school for overseas students at her home.

Sir Conrad, who was diagnosed as having cancer last year, was made Garter Principal by the Queen in 1992. He resigned in October because of ill health.

New rules to protect trawlers from subs

By Tim Jones

REGULATIONS are being introduced to prevent submarine commanders from endangering fishing vessels while taking part in Nato exercises off the South West coast.

After several incidents, trawler skippers have complained that their lives are being put at risk. In the latest incident, a German Navy U-boat became entangled in nets strung between two trawlers fishing out of Newlyn, Cornwall. The trawlers, the *Fie Mart* and the *Cathryn*, were dragged backwards and untangled themselves only when the 160ft submarine surfaced 20 miles south of Plymouth.

A report shows that briefings were unclear, warning signals were misunderstood and radio broadcasts went unheeded. The incident, last February, lost both trawlers 18 days at sea and, although their skippers estimate that the incident cost them £18,000, they received only £10,000 in compensation.

The German Navy later admitted that, despite clear indications that fishing vessels were in its area, the U-boat captain did not heed them or listen to radio warnings. A Royal Navy investigation blamed the commander but criticised Royal Navy trainers for giving the Germans an insufficient briefing. It found there was also misunderstanding over warning signals from Royal Navy ships.

Matthew Taylor, the Liberal Democrat MP for Truro and St Austell, who pressed for an inquiry, said the findings proved that the trawler skippers were right to be concerned. "These reports make very alarming reading."

Train part-time to be a secondary school teacher



"I had my own children to look after and a part-time job. But I wanted to be a teacher. The Open University PGCE course enabled me to study part-time from home. And I found I could even do my teaching practice at a local school. I loved the course. I loved the experience and now I'm a qualified teacher. The Open University works!"
Shirley Mawdsley, Isle of Wight

"After 18 months hard but enjoyable work on the PGCE, success came when I was offered a job as a French teacher in Halifax. I came home and announced my new job to my family. My wife was over the moon. I felt even more of a sense of achievement when I found my children were telling everyone, 'Dad's a real teacher now, not just a pretend one!'"
Secondary French student - now a French teacher

scientific, mathematical, Modern Language and technological disciplines are in particular demand in the teaching profession. Over the next few years extra secondary teachers in all subjects will be needed.

THREE STEPS TOWARDS TEACHING

Stage One, from February to March, requires 60 hours of private study, plus attendance at tutorials and Saturday day schools. Towards the end of Stage One there will be a full-time school placement for three weeks.

Stage Two, from April to November, requires at least 140 hours of study, plus tutorials and day schools, with a six week school placement which is usually completed by June.

Stage Three, from December to July, requires 230 study hours, plus tutorials and day schools, with a six week school placement which is usually completed by June.

OU SUPPORTED OPEN LEARNING

As part of your course the Open University will provide you with a range of study guides and set books. You will also receive video and audio materials and be advised about Open University TV and radio programmes relevant to your course.

GRANTS AVAILABLE

The PGCE course is free of charge to the student. You also have the free loan of a personal computer, printer and modem. Mathematics, French, Science or Technology students receive a special £500 payment.

To find out how you can train part-time to be a teacher, ask the Open University for your free PGCE prospectus today. Simply complete the coupon below or ring the Hotline on 01908 365302.

Complete and send this coupon to:

The Open University, PO Box 625,

Milton Keynes MK1 1TY. C962R

☐ Please send me your Postgraduate Certificate in Education prospectus.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

To save time call the Hotline **01908 365302**

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION & TRAINING OPEN TO ALL ADULTS

A If you need a degree or its equivalent and you could start training to become a secondary school teacher through the Open University. What's special about the OU is that you can study part-time. You can even nominate one of your own local schools for your teaching practice! Last year 900 people of very different ages and backgrounds gained a Post-Graduate certificate in Education through the Open University. You could do the same.

THE FLEXIBLE WAY TO LEARN

The course is designed to be flexible, so you can study in a way that fits your own circumstances. If you have work and/or family responsibilities, the Open University is made for you.

You will work closely with schools and experienced teachers, gaining important and practical teaching experience. The course has been designed to provide you with the skills, experience and knowledge you need to launch into a teaching career.

TEACHING PRACTICE AT A LOCAL SCHOOL

The course runs for 18 months, from February 1997 to July 1998, combined with three blocks of full-time experience in schools.

During the course there will be four Saturday day schools and five two-hour tutorials, all of which will be held at Open University centres in your area. You will be supported by a personal tutor.

A RANGE OF SUBJECTS

The Open University offers these secondary school subjects: Mathematics, Science, Design and Technology, English, History, Music and Modern Languages (French). Remember, graduates in

Five butterfly species at risk

By Michael Hornsby, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN has lost four of its resident butterflies over the past 150 years and many of those remaining are endangered or in decline, conservationists said yesterday.

Other species, however, are thriving. Martin Warren, of the Dorset-based charity, Butterfly Conservation, said: "It is swings and roundabouts. More than half our butterflies are disappearing, but about a third are doing quite well."

There are 55 resident species. Dr Warren has used records going back to Victorian times to identify the main winners and losers.

Four species are extinct. The large copper was last seen in 1851. It once thrived in East Anglia, but disappeared with destruction of its fenland habitat. The mazarine blue was last seen in Lincolnshire in early 1900s. The black-veined white has not been seen since the 1920s. The large tortoiseshell is believed extinct in Britain; occasional migrants may be seen.

The five most endangered species include the large blue, reintroduced from Sweden after disappearing from Britain in 1979. Its survival, which is not yet certain, depends on

limestone grassland, wild thyme and a rare species of red ant on whose grubs the larvae feed.

The high brown fritillary has declined by 95 per cent this century and only about 50 colonies are left. Its favoured habitat, sunlit woodland, has almost disappeared because of the decline in coppicing. The heath fritillary has declined by 92 per cent this century.

The silver-spotted skipper has recovered somewhat recently after a decline of nearly 90 per cent this century, caused by the loss of closely grazed downland turf, but there are still no more than 48 known colonies. The chequered skipper, once common in England, had vanished by the mid-1970s. Fifty colonies survive in western Scotland.

The end of coppicing may have benefited the white admiral and the speckled wood, which like shady woodland and are spreading from their established habitats. Warmer weather may be helping the Essex skipper, which is spreading north and west, and the red admiral, a summer visitor which is wintering here in increasing numbers.

Gener
Lebed t
assault

Mafia bo

BACKPAIN • AR
• HIATUS RE

• arthritic
• high & low
back pain
• hiatus hernia
• swollen
leg/ankle

Send for a FREE
colour brochure
CONCEPT
FREEPHONE 0800

CONCEPT

John 1:1-15

Generals split as Lebed tries to avert assault on Grozny

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S military hierarchy was split in two last night after generals bickered publicly over whether to continue fighting or negotiate an end to their bloody 20-month conflict in Chechnya.

With only hours to go before a Russian deadline was due to expire and open the way for a massive bombardment of Grozny, the Chechen capital, there was complete confusion over who, if anyone, was in control of the armed forces. President Yeltsin remained out of public view, although his press service insisted that he would resume his duties in Moscow today.

The latest twist came after General Igor Rodionov, the newly appointed Defence Minister, publicly rebuked his acting commander in Chechnya for ordering the bombardment of Grozny beginning today. General Rodionov, speaking on a visit to the city of Volgograd, said that he had given his subordinate a "dressing down". "He did not agree this question with me," said the Defence Minister, whose remarks suggested he had come out on the side of his old ally General Aleksandr Lebed, Russia's new security chief and trouble-shooter in Chechnya.

General Lebed last night met Aslan Maskhadov, the separatist chief-of-staff, outside Grozny. After arriving in Chechnya yesterday on his 11th-hour mission to try to head off the offensive, General Lebed said: "We will no longer speak in the language of ultimatums." He claimed that "the problem of the ultimatum" would be solved by today with the guidance of "humane considerations and common sense".

General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, who resumed his post

yesterday as commander of Russian forces in Chechnya, upheld the ultimatum and called for "very decisive measures" to be taken against the separatists occupying Grozny.

There are three possible explanations for the contradictory remarks coming out of the military. The most logical is that the Russian leader is seriously ill and unable to deal with the Chechen crisis personally. However, conspiracy theorists suggest that the whole crisis has been deliberately orchestrated in an effort to put pressure on the rebels at the negotiating table, where currently they seem to hold the advantage.

A third cynical explanation is that President Yeltsin has deliberately placed General Lebed, his ambitious security adviser, in an impossible position, calculating that his popularity and credibility will be damaged if his peace initiative fails.

Russian artillery and warplanes went into action several times yesterday, hitting rebel-held districts of Grozny. As the deadline approached, a desperate trail of refugees fled their homes on foot carrying

what possessions they could. Aid agencies estimated that tens of thousands of civilians were on the move.

One appeal signed by residents of a central Grozny district explained the plight of the 200,000 inhabitants. "Our homes are continuously bombarded by heavy weapons. We are in a desperate state, without bread, water and light. There are no fighters in our houses, no soldiers, and no one is firing from them, but the bombardment never stops," the appeal read.

America, Britain, France and Germany protested about the threatened offensive and urged Russia to call off its attack. The Foreign Office last night expressed deep concern about Russian warnings of a new assault on Grozny and said that the way forward lay in dialogue.

In Moscow, Aleksii II, the Russian Orthodox Patriarch, broke his silence and condemned the death of innocents. "The Chechen problem can only be resolved by peaceful means," said the country's spiritual leader.

Scenes of panic: British and Irish volunteers delivering emergency medical supplies to Grozny described scenes of panic as terrified residents fled the threatened Russian bombardment. Volunteers for London-based Medical Emergency Relief International saw truckloads of patients being evacuated from hospitals and floods of refugees clogging the roads out of Grozny. But they said thousands of civilians were refusing to leave their homes and some doctors were preparing to work in their hospitals under fire.



Rodionov: sides with his old ally Lebed

Body and Mind, page 14
Leading article, page 17



A child poses with a gun in Grozny yesterday as thousands fled the Chechen capital

Bossi denounces judges over move to end immunity

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

UMBERTO BOSSI, leader of the separatist Northern League, yesterday angrily dismissed moves to bring charges against him over his inflammatory rhetoric, declaring: "I do not recognise the judges of colonial Italy."

But public prosecutors from three North Italian towns — Milan, Bergamo and Tolmezzo — asked MPs to lift Signor Bossi's parliamentary immunity so he could be charged. The Speaker's office said a ruling would be given next month, when Signor Bossi plans to declare "independence" for Padania, the League's name for northern Italy. "I don't give a damn", Signor Bossi told *La Stampa* when asked about the legal moves. "We all know what the magistrature is. There is a war of nerves between Rome and Padania, and it will be a tough battle... but we Padanians are willing to die for freedom." He said he was willing to have his immunity lifted to face the charges.

Signor Bossi is a powerful orator with an ability to whip up northern resentment of rule by Rome, arguing that northern taxes subsidise "wastrels" in the poorer south. He has become increasingly militant, describing both President Scalfaro and Luciano Violante, the Speaker, as "Fascists" for their defence of national unity. Under Italian post-war law, to call someone a Fascist is an offence.

partment D" of the Italian secret services of seeking to discredit him, although the Interior Ministry said no such department existed.

He also accused RAI, the state broadcasting company, of "ethnic cleansing" for excluding him from the airwaves, although it is difficult to turn the television on without seeing Signor Bossi berating his opponents in his gravelly voice. "We will silence the swine who speak for Rome," Signor Bossi told one rally, urging the crowd to burn down RAI transmitters.

There was a rather more low key reaction, meanwhile, to the formation of another "breakaway state", the principality of Seborga, in Liguria, on the Italian Riviera coast. With 300 or so inhabitants, two grocery stores and a "militia" of only 13, Seborga is unlikely to rouse the same concerns as Padania.

Government officials said the move was "obviously intended to boost tourism". On the other hand, the Seborga declaration also has its origins in resentment of Rome. The leader of the new "mini-state" is Prince George I — in real life a 63-year-old florist named Giorgio Carbone, who has been fighting for years to restore independence to Seborga. The town, which held a referendum on independence from Italy last year, declared UDI at midnight on Tuesday on the Feast of San Bernardo — its patron saint.

Mafia boss held in Barcelona

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

GIUSEPPE CARNOVALE, among the most wanted and dangerous of Italy's mafiosi, has been arrested by Spanish police at a hideout in Barcelona.

Carnovale is the principal leader of the N'Drangheta, the close-knit Calabrian mafia which leapt to international notoriety in the 1980s with a series of kidnappings and "contract" killings. He is believed to have lived in Pedralbes, a prosperous district of Barcelona, since 1994. Sought by the Italian police and Interpol, the 45-year-old

Carnovale has an impressive criminal curriculum vitae. He is known to have masterminded scores of murders, and to have killed at least six men personally. The most spectacular of all his crimes was the murder in Bologna, in October 1989, of a rival mafia boss. There is evidence to suggest that the trademark N'Drangheta activity — the abduction of wealthy individuals, followed by the delivery of a severed body part to the family as pressure to pay the ransom — was one that Carnovale relished.

He presided over an extensive empire, spanning prostitution, money laundering,

drug-trafficking and gun-running. His branch of the N'Drangheta is known to have almost total control over the import of heroin from Turkey into western Europe.

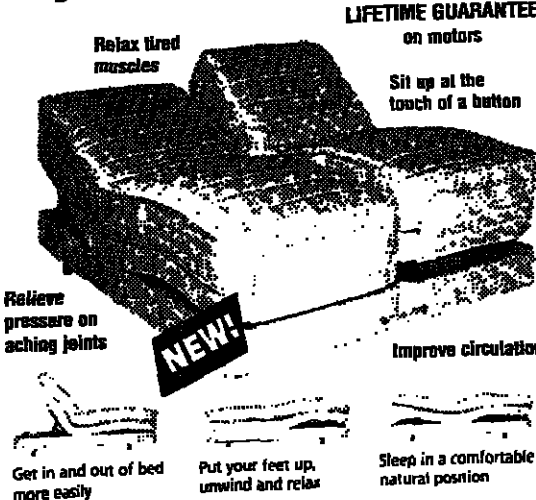
Tipped off by Interpol, the Spanish police had discovered Carnovale's whereabouts nearly two months ago and kept him under surveillance as they accumulated evidence.

Naples: Giuseppe Mallardo, thought to be one of the leaders of the Camorra, the Neapolitan mafia, was arrested yesterday on charges of murder and other crimes. (AFP)

BACKPAIN • ARTHRITIS • HIATUS HERNIA

The Concern for Comfort Adjustable Bed has proved to be a boon to sufferers of a wide variety of medical conditions. If you are troubled by:

- arthritis/rheumatism
- high & low back pain
- hiatus hernia
- swollen legs/edema
- poor circulation
- tight shoulders
- respiratory problems
- stress & tension



Send for a FREE colour brochure

CONCERN FOR COMFORT...the rest comes naturally

FREEPHONE 0800 371663

Name (Title) _____
Phone _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

CONCERN FOR COMFORT • FREEPOST (PAM 6722) LONDON W13 0BR

Pedalo pirates swoop on yachts

By RICHARD OWEN

ITALIAN police have warned mariners in the Straits of Messina to beware of modern-day pirates on stolen pedalos.

Six French women on holiday in a British-registered luxury yacht, the *Renato*, have described the "nightmare experience" of being boarded at night by pirates — five or six, they were not sure — who made no sound because they had used a pedalo taken from a nearby beach.

The *Renato* had been moored off the port of Scilla (ancient Scylla) at the mouth of the straits in the toe of Italy. The women told police at Messina the crew had retired for the night, at 2am the masked pirates climbed aboard, their leader brandishing a pistol.

The women were forced to hand over possessions valued at £40,000. "If you don't give us all you have, I shall open fire," the pirate leader told the terrified women. They obeyed. The crew apparently heard nothing. The pirates then disappeared as silently as they had come, steering the pedalo back to the beach.

Police said the women had not been harmed. But two weeks ago in the Venetian Lagoon, three pirates — this time using a punt rather than a pedalo — boarded a yacht and robbed a married couple. They then began to strip and attempted to rape the wife, but the husband managed to raise the alarm. It was ten to 15 minutes before maritime police arrived, by which time the pirates escaped.

MIKE OLDFIELD
VOYAGER

THE NEW ALBUM
AN INSPIRATIONAL CELTIC JOURNEY FROM ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL ARTISTS OF ALL TIME
OUT NEXT WEEK

http://www.wea.co.uk

'No side has a monopoly of virtue or should bear responsibility for all the abuses that occurred'

De Klerk owns up to wrongs of the past

"I stand before you today neither in shame nor in arrogance, but deeply conscious of my responsibility ... to be open, frank and helpful ... to stand by those who served under me ... to admit that which was wrong, to defend that which was right and to continue to build bridges in our quest for reconciliation."

A partial text of F. W. de Klerk's submission to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

commonwealth of South African states. The homelands were too small, too poor and economically too unattractive to provide a decent livelihood for all their citizens. It was evident that the great majority of black South Africans totally rejected the concept of separate development. The policy of separate development had clearly failed.

Those who fought on the side of the Government believed that they were defending their country against what they perceived to be the aggressive expansion of Soviet Communism.

On the other hand, those who fought against the Government were often equally convinced that they were fighting against a bastion of capitalism and imperialism. The great majority of those who served in the security forces during the conflict were honourable, professional and dedicated men and women. They were convinced that their cause was just, necessary and legitimate. The revolutionary strategies adopted by the Government's opponents blurred distinctions between combatants and non-combatants, between legitimate and illegitimate targets, and between acceptable and unacceptable methods.

In dealing with the unconventional strategies from the side of the Government, I want to make it clear from the outset that, within my knowledge and experience, they never included the

authorisation of assassination, murder, torture, rape, assault or the like ... Nor did I directly or indirectly, ever suggest, order or authorise such action.

The fundamental change of direction that I initiated ... was not supported by some elements in the security forces. My colleagues and I were accused along the grapevine of being soft and



F.W. de Klerk, the former South African President, apologising before the Truth Commission yesterday

of being traitors. I suspect that many of the unauthorised actions now coming to light were at the time directed as much against the transformation process as they were directed against the revolutionary threat.

Obviously, there rests an overall responsibility on the leadership of the various parties, organisations and institutions which were part

of the conflict. I accept such overall responsibility in respect of the period of my leadership. However ... responsibility should be attributed to ... individual ministers for all decisions taken by them personally in their ministerial capacity.

Reconciliation ... cannot be achieved unless there is also repentance on all sides. I should like to express my

deepest sympathy with all those on all sides who suffered ... No single side has a monopoly of virtue or should bear responsibility for all the abuses that occurred. Nor can any side claim sole credit for the transformation of South Africa. That belongs to all of us. (Reuters)

When the commission was set up, heavily loaded with ANC supporters, the general assumption was that it would be used to hound Mr de Klerk and Mangosuthu Buthe, leader of the mainly-Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party, in particular. But the commission has not worked as expected. Packed with clerics and chaired by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, it has often resembled a religious ceremony, with a good deal of praying, hymn singing and sermonising.

Many of its sessions have drawn sparse audiences and it

Commission fails to heal wounds of apartheid era

FROM R.W. JOHNSON IN JOHANNESBURG

DURING the long years of the anti-apartheid struggle, African National Congress activists dreamt of the day when South Africa would stage its own "Judgment at Nuremberg" and arraign before a popular tribunal the men who had inflicted apartheid on their compatriots.

In the event, F.W. de Klerk's appearance at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was a long way from such imaginings. Although Mr de Klerk had to dodge a crowd of angry protesters outside the hearings, he was warmly applauded by the audience inside, and while he accepted responsibility for human rights abuses committed when he was President, he insisted that these had never occurred by his deliberate order and that he had been unaware of many of them.

Mr de Klerk agreed that apartheid had been a "mistaken" policy, but he laid blame on the ANC and the Pan Africanist Congress for helping to "create circumstances and an atmosphere which were conducive to human rights abuses". Personally, he said, he felt he was blameless of any wrongdoing.

Alex Boraine, the commission's deputy chairman, interpreted this as an apology. "I don't think anyone should underestimate the power of a public leader, a former State President, saying sorry," he said, and argued that this would help the healing process which the commission claims to be leading. In fact, Mr de Klerk's statement was far from the mea culpa many had hoped for and was a masterfully bland performance.

When the commission was set up, heavily loaded with ANC supporters, the general assumption was that it would be used to hound Mr de Klerk and Mangosuthu Buthe, leader of the mainly-Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party, in particular. But the commission has not worked as expected. Packed with clerics and chaired by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, it has often resembled a religious ceremony, with a good deal of praying, hymn singing and sermonising.

Many of its sessions have drawn sparse audiences and it

has not brought to book any of the long list of apartheid torturers and murderers. A number of witnesses have clearly been confused — one accused a young policeman on duty at the hearing of torture, although he could not have been born at the time.

Lawyers have frequently been shocked at the way the commission has allowed witnesses to make damaging allegations against individuals who are given no warning of the testimony nor any way of responding to it.

Ironically, to date it has been the ANC that has been most embarrassed by the commission. The testimony of General Bantu Holomisa that a member of the ANC Cabinet had accepted a bribe from Sol Kerzner, the casino magnate, erupted into a corruption scandal that still dogs the Government. Moreover, the party then drew the commission's ire by trying to insist that ANC members should seek advance vetting for their evidence and by seeking General Holomisa as a deputy minister.

The commission has brought out much eloquent witness about the wrongs of the past but it is doubtful that it has done as much for reconciliation as it claims. Its entire procedure was angrily rejected by the families of a number of victims who want justice and the commission has tried to treat forgiveness for atrocities as the normal response.

A poll just released shows that 60 per cent of the public believe that the commission's often gruesome disclosures could make race relations worse. The poll found that a majority of whites were hostile to the commission, but, strikingly, Coloureds and Indians were equally divided and only 51 per cent of blacks were positive.

Such figures fall far short of expectations, though this may be no bad thing. Some people who testified about the 1976 Soweto uprising admitted that their memories of those events were no longer clear. South Africans have more than enough to worry about in the present and it is surely a healthy sign that many, even those who suffered most, are starting to forget.

INTERROGATE YOUR CURRENT ACCOUNT

Will you give me credit interest of up to 3.0% gross p.a.?

Will you give me low overdraft rates with no monthly fee?

Can I bank at almost 20,000 Post Offices?

Will you provide me with a £100 cheque guarantee/debit* and cash card?

If your current account can't come up with some good answers, switch to the account that can — the Alliance Account from Alliance & Leicester.

It's a simple decision. If your current account can't say "yes" to the questions above then switch to brighter banking.

24 hour telephone banking

With the Alliance Account you have control of your money. 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. If you want to pay a bill at midnight or check your balance first thing in the morning, just pick up the phone.

As well as round the clock telephone banking, you have access to your account through a network of nearly 350 branches, almost 20,000 Post Offices and over 8,500 LINK cash machines.

It's simple to switch

Alliance & Leicester's Switching Pack makes changing to the Alliance Account easy — helping you transfer direct debits and standing orders.

SWITCH AND CELEBRATE WITH £100 OF FREE DRINKS VOUCHERS

FREE DRINKS



Apply today or find out more by calling FREE on:

0500 95 95 95

quoting reference NTJ

or complete and return this coupon below

Please send me more information about the Alliance Account from Alliance & Leicester. (Please use BLOCK CAPITALS.)

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms Initials

Surname Address

Postcode

Tel. No. (Home) (Work)

Date of birth / /

Are you an Alliance & Leicester customer? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Return to: Alliance & Leicester Building Society, FREEPOST (LS 948), Leeds LS2 8AL.

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER

The healthcare you need at a price you can afford

Think about the benefits you really want from private healthcare. With PPP healthcare's new Starter Plan, the highest standards of care are yours for a remarkably low price. For complete peace of mind, return the coupon today.

- Immediate access to private treatment
- Your choice of hospital
- Hospital stays paid in full with no annual limit
- FREE 24-hour Health Information Line
- FREE calls to your Personal Advisory Team

PPP healthcare

SEND FOR A FREE NO-OBLIGATION QUOTATION NOW. TO: PPP healthcare, FREEPOST PPP HOUSE, UPPERTON ROAD, EASTBOURNE, EAST SUSSEX BN1 1BL. See also www.ppphealthcare.co.uk

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms Name

Address

Postcode

Tel. No. (Day) (Evening)

Date of birth (Important: we cannot give you a quotation without this date.)

Name of other adult to be included

Date of birth / /

Number of children under 21 to be included

If you have a current healthcare policy, please give your current date

Ref: 5580

PLEASE DO NOT RECEIVE PROMOTIONAL MAILINGS FROM OTHER COMPANIES

We're there to support you at every step.

Call now and get your first month free

0800 33 55 55 Ref: 5580

Ask for your no-obligation free quotation. Instant cover available. Credit cards welcome.

(2pm-5pm, Mon-Fri, 12pm-4pm, Sat/Sun) PLEASE QUOTE REFERENCE ABOVE

Clinton begins build-up to starring role at convention

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON will make probably the longest and most dramatic entrance in convention history when the Democrats stage theirs in Chicago next week. He will spend four days travelling to the Windy City by train through the American heartlands, completing the journey with a boat ride across Lake Michigan. At the convention, he will announce an important new policy initiative every day.

A helicopter with a satellite tracking dish will follow the train to beam nightly film of his approach into the convention hall. The idea behind all this is to generate some real news during a suspense-free convention — Bob Dole, Mr Clinton's Republican opponent, was at least able to announce his running mate. The organisers also hope to work up a thunderous reception when Mr Clinton finally arrives to accept his party's nomination next Thursday night.

Mr Clinton was on holiday in Wyoming during last week's Republican convention and kept a low profile. But he has noticeably stepped up the tempo of his campaign since his return. On

Sunday night he celebrated his fiftieth birthday with a spectacular star-studded party in New York. He and Hillary Clinton spent Monday with Al Gore, the Vice-President, and his wife Tipper in Tennessee, rebuilding a black church destroyed by arson.

On Tuesday, yesterday and again today he scheduled televised White House signing ceremonies for Bills raising the statutory minimum wage, guaranteeing continued health insurance for those who lose or change their jobs, and reforming the welfare system. Finally, by week's end, 400,000 copies of Mr Clinton's new book, *Between Hope and History*, setting out his "new Democrat" vision, will appear across the country.

Fighter planes grounded

Washington: The US Air Force combat command has cancelled most air operations tomorrow for a safety review after four crashes, including one involving one of President Clinton's support planes last Saturday, in which all nine on board died.

The convention organisers have done their best to inject some drama into next week's proceedings in the Chicago Bulls' new basketball stadium. Monday's opening night will feature an appearance by Christopher Reeve, the *Superman* actor paralysed by a riding accident last year, and an emotional film tribute to Ron Brown, the Commerce Secretary who died when his aircraft crashed in Croatia last April.

Tuesday night, dedicated to "the family", will include speeches by Mrs Clinton, who must somehow match Elizabeth Dole's riveting performance at the Republican convention, Mrs Gore, and Evan Bayh, the young Indiana Governor who will deliver the keynote speech. Wednesday night will

The Air Combat Command, which has 980 combat planes in the US, Panama, Iceland and Portugal, said all routine operations have been cancelled for one day. Units are to spend the day examining their operations. (Reuters)

consist of attacks on the Republican agenda, though personal jabs at Mr Dole have been forbidden. Then Mr Clinton will be formally nominated by Senator Chris Dodd of Connecticut, the party chairman.

The convention will reach a climactic conclusion on Thursday night with Mr Clinton's formal acceptance speech in which he intends finally to unveil his agenda for a second term.

Striking a pre-convention sour note, Mr Clinton's lead in the giant state of California has halved to just ten points in the wake of the Republican convention in San Diego. Mr Clinton cannot recapture the White House without winning the Golden State.

Free speech: The US Federal Communications Commission gave television networks the go-ahead yesterday to offer the main candidates free air time during the November presidential election.

The agency ruled that proposals for free time made by Rupert Murdoch's Fox Network, ABC, and the Public Broadcasting Service did not violate the "equal time" provisions of federal communications law. (Reuters)



President Clinton holds Charles Duval, four, on his lap during the White House signing of a Bill raising America's minimum wage

Flight 800 team urge dredging of seabed

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

FRUSTRATED investigators are considering dredging the sandy ocean floor off Long Island for clues about the cause of the crash of TWA Flight 800.

Divers searching for debris in the 100ft waters are expected to complete their work in the key wreckage field nearest to J. F. Kennedy airport by the end of the month. Discussions are now under way about scraping the seabed in the area for small pieces of the Paris-bound jumbo jet.

Investigators are focusing on the right central portion of the Boeing 747 as the likely source of the explosion on July 17 that killed all 230 people aboard. Many of the economy class seats on the right side of rows 17 to 28 are still missing, although the salvage effort has recovered seats from all other parts of the passenger cabin. The few seats from those rows that have been found show much more burn damage than those from other areas.

Sections of the right-side fuselage and the right wing were also heavily charred, while equivalent parts from the left of the aircraft showed fewer burns. A preliminary test conducted on a portion of the right wing found traces of a component of a plastic explosive, but later laboratory analysis failed to confirm the result.

Most investigators apparently believe a bomb blew the plane out of the sky. Charles Weller, the coroner, told local legislators this week that he believed the plane had been bombed, but that he had no proof.

The latest evidence from the cockpit voice recorder casts some doubt on the bomb theory, however, because the sudden loud noise at the end of the tape differs from the sound recorded in the bombing of PanAm Flight 103. The noise is said to be about the same length as that aboard PanAm Flight 103, but growing less rapidly in intensity and not as sharp.

The TWA tape has also been compared with the recording from a Philippine Air Lines jet whose fuel tank exploded in 1990, but the result was inconclusive.

California prison guards bet on fatal 'gladiator' contests

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA'S most dreaded maximum security prison was the scene of gladiator-style contests between prisoners, with guards betting on the outcome and even shooting combatants to stop their brawling, an FBI investigation has found.

In a series of shocking disclosures that will not help the grim reputation of the state's jails, former guards from Corcoran State Prison have described staged fights supervised by officers in a so-called shooting gallery.

Six inmates died and more than 50 were wounded in shooting incidents in the prison's first six years after opening as a modern jail in 1988. Most casualties were from a unit for the "baddest of the bad", paired off because they were known enemies and hardened fighters. FBI

sources told the Los Angeles Times.

A 9mm rifle and a gas gun firing wooden blocks were at the disposal of guards in a shooting tower over the Special Housing Unit's exercise yard, according to the chief witness in the FBI's Corcoran investigation. Because of their violent records, the unit's prisoners were allowed to exercise only two at a time.

Guards on a particular morning watch hand-picked exercise partners, goaded them to fight, placed bets on who would win, and frequently used the gas gun and rifle in violation of prison rules, one prison officer said.

Federal officials launched their investigation after relatives of a former gang member — shot dead by mistake in one such fight — decided to sue the state of California.

Preston Tate, jailed for rape, was shot in 1994. A video obtained by his family's lawyers shows a prisoner preparing to charge him in the exercise yard. A bullet then enters Tate's head.

Other brutal rituals uncovered in the investigation include the beating of shackled prisoners by black-gloved guards in a routine known as "greet the bus", and forcing inmates to stand barefoot on scorching asphalt. Prison medical officers were told that their patients had been playing "barefoot handball".

Corcoran has been home to such notorious criminals as the serial murderer Charles Manson and Sirhan Sirhan, Robert Kennedy's assassin.

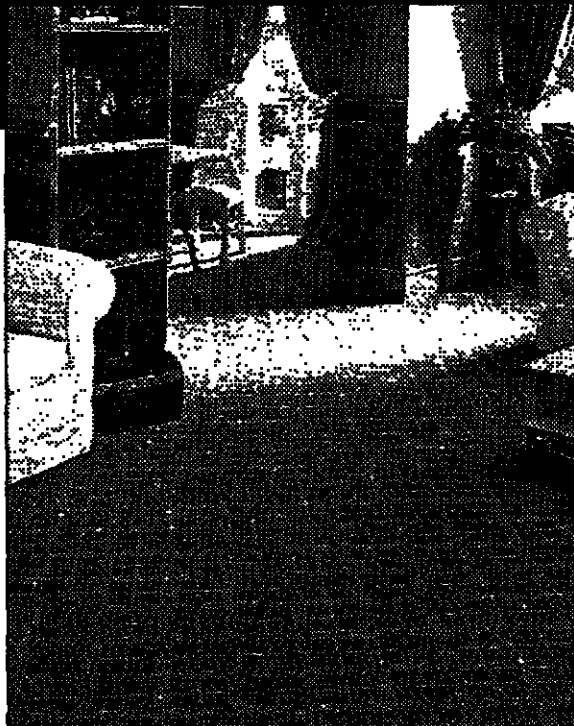
The former prison chief admitted that some guards had "gone crazy", but denied losing control of the prison.

SALE MUST END SOON

0% INTEREST FREE CREDIT ON ALL FLOORINGS OVER £200*

Half Price Carpets

Here are a few examples.	SALE	SAVE
Broadfield Stain defiant Berber cord carpet. Was £13.99 per 0.84 sq.m.	£6.99 per 0.84 sq.m. (£8.36 sq.m.)	HALF PRICE
Opus II Stain defiant plain style carpet. Was £15.99 per 0.84 sq.m.	£7.99 per 0.84 sq.m. (£9.55 sq.m.)	HALF PRICE
Confetti Heather saxony with Scotchgard protection. Was £19.99 per 0.84 sq.m.	£9.99 per 0.84 sq.m. (£11.94 sq.m.)	HALF PRICE
Ophelia Sculptured carpet in 10 colours. Was £19.99 per 0.84 sq.m.	£9.99 per 0.84 sq.m. (£11.94 sq.m.)	HALF PRICE



Free Underlay on Axminsters & Wiltons over £19.99

	NOW	SAVE
Venetian Wilton Stain defiant Wilton. Was £19.99 per 0.84 sq.m.	£15.99 per 0.84 sq.m. (£19.12 sq.m.)	£4
Guildhall Exclusive Axminster by Wilton Royal.	£19.99 per 0.84 sq.m. (£23.70 sq.m.)	FREE UNDERLAY
Royalty Luxurious Axminster in 10 colours.	£21.99 per 0.84 sq.m. (£26.30 sq.m.)	FREE UNDERLAY

UP TO 50% Off All Roll Ends
Hundreds of roll ends to choose from.

Only 10% Deposit
UP TO 3 Years 0% apr.
On all floorings over £200*

SPEND £200 TO £499 18 MONTHS 0%

SPEND £500 OR MORE 36 MONTHS 0%

Most stores open Bank Holiday
Monday 10am - 6pm
Most stores stock Beds, Curtains and Rugs
Ring 0181 466 4006 for your nearest store

10% Off marked prices

Ports of Call Carpets

Get the designer look with 10% off the Jeff Banks Ports of Call Carpet Collection this Bank Holiday.

Allied CARPETS

Inspirational Choices for your Home

*Example: Purchase price £200, Deposit £20, (Minimum 10% deposit) Balance £180, payable by 30 direct debit payments at £12.50 per month. Total price on credit £200, 0% APR. Interest free credit offers apply to borrowing orders only and are not available at Allied Carpets Home, Roundhouse Way, Weymouth, Dorset. Subject to status. Written questions from Allied Carpets, Dorset, 01929 6121, who are licensed credit lenders. (Free Supreme Underlay, £2.99 per 0.84 sq.m., £24.72 per sq.m.) on all Axminsters and Wiltons over £19.99 per 0.84 sq.m. (£23.99 sq.m.) 0.84 sq.m. = 1 sq.yd. Free Underlay offer can not be used in conjunction with any other promotional offer, voucher or discount.

HOT £25-30

Now you can take the break you've been looking for at a price that won't get you all steamed up! From now until 8th September, we've dramatically cut the cost of a break at our excellent Hotels and Resorts. And that means great value has never been so affordable. Stay for two, three or more nights at one of our friendly, intimate Hotels for only £25 per person, per night. Or at one of our luxurious Country Club Resorts from just £40 per person, per night.

£25	Worcestershire (Nr Birmingham), Westmead Hotel	(0121) 445 1202
£30	Bedfordshire (Nr Bedford), Barns Hotel	(01234) 270044
£30	Buckinghamshire (Nr Milton Keynes), Coach House	(01908) 613688
£30	Constable Country (Nr Ipswich), Suffolk Grange Hotel	(01473) 272244
£30	Nene Valley (Nr Northampton), Heyford Manor Hotel	(01327) 349022
£30	Peak District (Nr Sheffield), Beauchief Hotel	(0114) 262 0500
£30	Sherwood Forest, Clumber Park Hotel	(01623) 835333
£30	South Cheshire (Nr Sandbach), Chimney House Hotel	(01270) 764141
£30	Thames Valley (Nr Reading), Padworth Court Hotel	(0118) 971 4411
£30	Warwick, Honiley Court Hotel	(01926) 484234
£30	Warwickshire (Nr Coventry), Coventry Knight Hotel	(01203) 301585
£30	Yorkshire Pennines (Nr Huddersfield), Old Golf House	(01422) 379311

ALL PRICES INCLUDE A FULL TRADITIONAL BREAKFAST AND 3 COURSE DINNER.

HOT £40

Country Club Resort guests receive complimentary Leisure Club membership during their stay and the chance to play golf on one of two championship courses! To take advantage of these very special prices, you must book by 30th August as room availability for this offer is strictly limited. So don't miss out. Call the hotel of your choice or our special HOTLINE now.

£40	Bristol, Redwood Lodge Hotel*	(01275) 393901
£40	Canterbury, Falstaff Hotel	(01227) 462138
£40	Cotswolds (Tewkesbury), Tewkesbury Park Hotel*	(01684) 295405
£40	London (Epsom), Edgwarebury Hotel	(0181) 953 8227
£40	New Forest/Winchester, Potters Heron Hotel	(01703) 266611
£40	The Potteries (Stone), Stone House Hotel	(01785) 815531
£40	Winchester/Portsmouth, Meon Valley Hotel*	(01329) 833455

*Country Club Resorts †Golf is available at these Resorts for an extra charge.

CCH Coventry Knight Hotel	CCH Stone House Hotel
20% discount off adult tickets to Warwick Castle	Free one day child pass to Alton Towers

HOT

BOOK BY 30th AUGUST
STAY BY 8th SEPTEMBER

CALL OUR HOTLINE NOW ON
01582 56 22 56

quoting Reference No. TM4
Lines open this Saturday and Sunday from 10am-4pm.
Monday to Friday from 8.30am-6pm.

COUNTRY CLUB Hotel Group

FOR A FREE COPY OF OUR LEISURE BREAKS BROCHURE, PLEASE CALL 0800 444 885

Prices quoted are per person, per night for Double Room and Breakfast. These breaks are subject to strictly limited availability and apply only to twin or double room occupancy and maximum 2 night stay. Single rooms can only be booked in conjunction with a double room and a supplement may apply. The offer is subject to special promotional conditions and is not available in conjunction with other special offers or special direct to hotels offers ending 30th September 1996.

INSIDE SECTION

2 TODAY

BUSINESS

Price cut

Br
reje
com

THE
milk
price
when dema

Milk price
when dema

THE
Irish tea

Irish tea

THE
Irish tea

THE TIMES

2

INSIDE SECTION

2 TODAY



BUSINESS

Anthony Harris on tax cuts and economic growth
PAGES 23-30



ARTS

Baryshnikov is back — and London falls at his feet
PAGES 31-33



SPORT

Barcelona extends warm welcome to Robson's choice
PAGES 37-44

TELEVISION AND RADIO

PAGES 42, 43

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY AUGUST 22 1996

Price curbs final, says regulator British Gas rejects Ofgas compromise

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE GAS regulator yesterday offered British Gas a price control compromise for TransCo, its pipelines business, in one of the most significant regulatory re-thinks in the privatised utilities.

The company rejected the proposals, which will cut bills next year by an average of £28 and set the two sides on course for a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry.

British Gas's rejection comes after what is seen as a substantial modification of pricing proposals announced in May in which Clare Spottiswoode, the regulator, has re-written a crucial valuation formula for TransCo's assets. Philip Rogerson, British Gas's deputy chairman, said it was "highly probable" the matter would go to the MMC if Ms Spottiswoode did not relent. Ms Spottiswoode, however, has said that curbs which would reduce charges 20 per cent next year and thereafter by RPI-2.5 per cent for four years were final.

The proposals would cut revenues by £650 million next year and the bill reductions for domestic users would scale up to £55 per household by 2001. The regulator has compromised on early plans which provoked a fierce reaction from the company and shareholders. The one-off charge is at the bottom of the proposed range, which stretched to 28 per cent while the X factor for RPI has been halved from 5 per cent. Central to the proposals is the lifting of the company's asset base figure to £11.7

billion compared with Ofgas's provisional range of between £9 billion and £11 billion. Ms Spottiswoode said she had rewritten the valuation to avoid accusations of retrospective regulation. She admitted that she had come under pressure from shareholders over her first controversial valuation of the business which, it was argued, flew in the face of valuation calculations by the MMC in 1993.

She said that she and her Ofgas advisers felt "uncomfortable" over the re-writing of the asset base. But she said a reference in the MMC report argued against retrospective regulation and that the lower valuation of the business could be seen as an attempt to claw back revenues which the company had earned in the previous review.

Ms Spottiswoode termed the new proposals "a very

good compromise for shareholders and for consumers." She has also, after about 60 meetings between the two sides since May, offered TransCo the option to have a new price review after three years instead of the usual five.

One City analyst said: "This represents a substantial climbdown by the regulator and one which the National Grid will look on with interest." The National Grid, the electricity industry's monopoly equivalent to TransCo, is facing a similar review in which the electricity regulator has proposed a comparable set of curbs.

Mr Rogerson said: "She has hardly shifted position at all. She has merely erased one or two of the more extreme parts of the proposals." British Gas maintains its original warning over jobs. In May it said the cuts would mean that 10,000 jobs would have to go. Yesterday Mr Rogerson said: "We are sticking by our prediction for jobs and that it will affect 8,000 to 10,000."

Ms Spottiswoode accused the company of playing a public relations game with jobs and with the effects of her review.

The company has until October 7 to decide whether or not to accept the proposals. Between now and that date there will be further talks although Ms Spottiswoode is adamant that they will only involve "fine print".

British Gas shares rose 6½p to 204½p.



Rogerson: rejection

Pennington, page 25



Clare Spottiswoode felt "uncomfortable" rewriting the asset base

Unexpected decline in high street shop sales

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH retail sales dropped unexpectedly last month, unable to match the bumper shopping spree enjoyed in June.

But statisticians and City economists say that the trend of sales remains firmly upwards as consumers respond to tax cuts, lower interest rates and recovery in the housing market.

At the same time, the falter last month helped to allay fears that Britain was heading for a Eighties-style consumer boom and the threat of higher inflation.

Some even said that the figures could give ammunition to Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, if he wanted to cut base rates once more this year.

Retail sales dropped 0.6 per cent between June and July, but were 2.2 per cent higher than a year ago. Taking the past three months, compared with the previous three, which the Office for National Statistics believes gives a better idea of underlying trends, sales were up 1.1 per cent.

Against May and July last year, sales were up 2.7 per cent. This is the same year-on-year rise as recorded in June. Both are the highest rate of growth since December, 1994.

The ONS said that June's rise of 1.3 per cent was revised upwards yesterday to an increase of 1.4 per cent.

Philip Oppenheim, Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, said that in spite of the fall in sales between June and July, taking the two months together showed that there was still a "healthy upward trend" in sales. Those areas of spending that were weakest in July — the most

important month for summer sales — were those that showed most strength in June. Clothing and footwear fell 2.2 per cent in July, but had risen by almost 6 per cent in June. Analysts believe that this category of spending received a boost from good weather in June and also from spending by overseas visitors in Britain for the European football championships.

Household goods sales fell 0.4 per cent in July, compared with June. Jonathan Loynes, economist with HSBC Markets, noted that the falls in clothing and footwear and household goods came in spite of evidence of very heavy price discounting in the summer sales.

Retail prices figures last week showed that clothing retailers slashed prices by almost 5 per cent in July. Alex Garrard, economist at UBS, said: "For the time being at least, the Chancellor continues to lead a charmed life, with a benign cocktail of soft inflation and apparently moderating consumer activity increasing his leeway to push for a further cut following the September 4 meeting [between the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England]."

However, Michael Saunders, economist at Salomon Brothers, cautioned against a rate cut. He said that June and July sales taken together showed a steady pick-up in spending and that figures for notes and coins in circulation as well as John Lewis sales figures suggested that sales had remained reasonably strong in August.

This week's figures for new mortgage commitments point the same way. German rates, page 24

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FT-SE 100	3872.1 (-11.1)
Yield	4.04%
FT-SE All share	1914.19 (-3.56)
Nikkei	21275.02 (+148.01)
New York	
Dow Jones	5683.90 (-37.36)
S&P Composite	663.22 (-2.47)

US RATE	
Federal Funds	5 1/8% (4 1/2%)
Long Bond	98 1/8% (99 1/8%)
Yield	6.53% (6.80%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-month Interbank	5 1/4% (5 1/4%)
Libor long gilt	107 1/2% (108)
Libor (Sep)	107 1/2% (108)

STERLING

New York	1.5505* (1.5480)
London	1.5506 (1.5472)
DM	2.2975 (2.3043)
FF	7.8884 (7.8614)
SFR	1.5956 (1.5955)
Yen	167.82 (167.81)
£ Index	94.7 (94.8)

US DOLLAR

London	1.4630* (1.4594)
FF	5.0708* (5.0845)
SFR	1.2000* (1.2070)
Yen	108.32* (108.35)
£ Index	96.2 (96.4)

Tokyo close Yen 108.46

NORTH-SEA OIL

Bract 15-day (Nov) \$19.95 (\$20.05)

GOES

London close \$367.25 (\$367.55)

* denotes midday trading price

Boardroom bans

The Government yesterday reiterated its determination to stamp out corporate misconduct, after a huge rise in boardroom bans. John Taylor, Minister for Corporate Affairs, said the Insolvency Service was on a mission to remove unfit directors. Page 24

Slow build up

Marley, the building materials group, yesterday unveiled a fall in underlying profits in the first half and said that while most overseas markets were recovering, the UK remains gloomy. Page 25, *Tempus* 26

Milk prices to fall when demand low

By PAUL DURMAN

THE OFT's Fair Trading is enforcing a series of changes to the system of selling milk that should see prices fall when demand is low.

John Bridgeman, the Director-General of Fair Trading, stopped short of referring the milk industry to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Instead, Milk Marque, the body that controls two-thirds of the milk supply in England and Wales, has assured him that it will change the way it prices milk sold to the dairy companies.

The OFT's action received a "cautious welcome" from the Dairy Industry Federation, which has repeatedly clashed with Milk Marque since it took over from the Milk Marketing Board in November 1994.

Although Milk Marque's pricing mechanism allowed prices to rise when there was excess demand, it did not allow a corresponding fall when demand was weak. Dairy companies bid for milk

in occasional pricing rounds. Milk Marque has agreed that if it receives offers for less than 90 per cent of the milk available, it will start a new round of bidding at a lower price. Although this is effectively what happened in the latest pricing round, Milk Marque has previously enjoyed a very large amount of discretion.

John Price, director-general of the DIF, said: "Until now, Milk Marque has made up the rules as it went along and no one has known what it was doing."

A cap will also be placed on Milk Marque's opening price. The organisation will also have to publish its forecasts of the amount of milk available, and information on bids made.

Milk Marque said it regarded the OFT's announcement as confirmation that it operated a fair, market-related selling system. It hoped this "will clear the air once and for all".

Pennington, page 25

West Ham share plan under fire

By JASON NISSE

WEST HAM UNITED, the Premiership football club, will today face a rebellion against its controversial plans to restrict the transfer of shares in the company.

The plans allow the board to refuse to register transfers of under 100 shares. West Ham shares trade at about £300 each.

Shane Barber, chairman of the Hammers Independent shareholders has proxies or support from holders of 3,000 of West Ham's 100,000 shares and will be voting against the motion. The motion is unlikely to be blocked as the board controls 90 per cent of its shares.

Meanwhile, Brewin Dolphin, the broker, is trying to unravel the mess caused when it was asked by West Ham to sell 100 shares that belonged to a shareholder who had died. The shareholder's family says it owns the shares and West Ham is now trying to buy them back.

SFA imposes lifetime bans

By ROBERT MILLER

A CITY watchdog has banned three people from working in the City for life including a former financial controller of Barclays Stockbrokers who is now serving a two-year prison sentence for embezzlement.

The Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), the regulator for brokers and futures traders, yesterday announced that Robin Jenkins, 41, who worked in the Glasgow offices of Barclays Stockbrokers and who stole £176,525 and transferred the money to his own accounts had been expelled from SFA registers and ordered to pay £1,000 in costs. Jenkins was sent to prison in April.

In a separate case, Simon Burch, who was dismissed by Henry Cooke Lumsden, the stockbroker, was struck-off the SFA's registers and ordered to pay £6,500 in costs. Mr Burch was found guilty of taking a copy of a letter to the SFA setting out the grounds for his dismissal and scanning it into his home computer. He

then altered the letter leaving out references both to the SFA and the reasons for his dismissal before sending it to a prospective employer.

Kikuo Watanabe was also expelled from the SFA registers and ordered to pay costs of £3,100 while his former employer, New Japan Securities Europe, was fined £10,000 with costs of £4,700. Mr Watanabe, who has returned to Japan, entered into highly speculative and unmatched foreign exchange trading deals and attempted to hide the subsequent losses by "deceitful accounting entries".

In a fourth case, John Ludlam, who formerly worked for Salomons, the investment and banking house, on the European Equities Desk, was reprimanded by the SFA, fined £5,000 and ordered to pay costs of £4,000. Mr Ludlam mis-marked shares in a Belgian company to conceal losses on trading activities and then misled the group's management.

MORTGAGES FOR THE SELF EMPLOYED

THE MORTGAGE was once just a way of buying your home. Today it is becoming a multi-purpose financial account that can be used for everything from buying a new car to paying for summer holidays. The new breed of flexible mortgages allows borrowers to use the loan like a bank account, paying extra cash in when it suits, then withdrawing it again if the need arises. There seems no end to the potential for these flexi-loans.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
4 AUGUST 1996

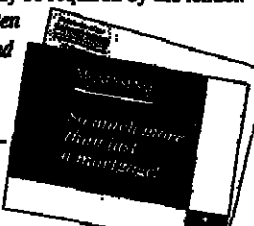
Tell us everything you want, but don't tell us your income!

A leading representative of Allied Dunbar Freedman & Co specialises in planning and providing mortgages for directors, professionals, contractors and the self-employed — groups which, for one reason or another, prefer not to provide any income details. For such requirements we can arrange mortgages up to 85% of property value.

Naturally, we are able to offer today's 'overdraft-type' mortgages where the MONEYSENSE MORTGAGE ACCOUNT™ is the

definitive choice for complete mortgage flexibility. The scheme is available for purchases and re-mortgages and for any legal capital-raising purpose. Your home is at risk if you do not keep up repayments on a mortgage or other loan secured on it. Suitable security and adequate life cover may be required by the lender.

Full written quotation and brochure on request.



Contact the Mortgage Desk at
Freedman & Co.
Tel: 01727 836511 (24 Hours)
Fax: 01727 840976

Ivor Freedman represents only the Allied Dunbar Marketing Group, which is regulated by the Financial Services Authority in relation to life insurance, pensions and investment plans bearing Allied Dunbar's name. Ivor Freedman is a licensed credit broker.

For the life you don't yet know



Irish tea goes cold on Unilever

By PAUL DURMAN

THE minority shareholders in Lyons Irish Holdings, the company that has 60 per cent of the Irish Republic's tea market, are holding out against a bid from Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch food and detergents group.

By the first closing date of the offer on Tuesday, Unilever Ireland had won acceptances from only 79,000 of the outstanding 7.5 million shares.

Pierce Butler, chairman of Lyons Irish, said this result was a resounding rejection of the Unilever offer. He was

surprised that Unilever is persisting with its offer of Ir£323.3p a share. He said: "We don't think it's a reasonable offer. The shareholders don't either."

Unilever completed the Ir£73 million purchase of its existing 75 per cent stake in Lyons Irish last month. The stake was bought from Allied Domecq, which has been selling off its food interests since the merger between Allied Lyons and Domecq. Unilever quickly moved to buy in the minority, which is divided between 1,200 private and institutional investors.

Although Unilever is offering share-

holders the same price paid to Allied Domecq, local stockbrokers have rejected the bid as unacceptably low. One firm has suggested a fair price for Lyons Irish would be more than Ir£400p a share, arguing that Allied Domecq was a distressed seller.

Such a move seems highly unlikely. A Unilever spokesman said: "We are keeping the offer open, but if we are not successful, it's not the end of the world. We operate with minority shareholders in other areas — India, for example."

Since it is making an offer without conditions, Unilever is not subject to

the usual 60-day takeover timetable. It has extended its offer until further notice — though it has only until the end of November to secure the necessary 80 per cent level of acceptances among the minority.

The Irish are heavy tea-drinkers, and catering to them has made Lyons Irish one of the Irish Republic's most consistently successful companies. It made Ir£4.5 million in its most recent half year, from sales of Ir£4.3 million. It has been criticised for failing to find a better use for a cashpile that has grown to about £50 million.

Mersey losses force sale of Eurolink

BY CARL MORTSHED

MERSEY DOCKS and Harbour Company is shutting down its passenger ferry service from England to Holland after losses of £4.5 million in the half-year to June.

The poor performance of Eurolink contributed to a 17 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £13.9 million. Mersey Docks predicted yesterday that losses in the second half could reach £2.5 million.

Mersey Docks is now seeking a buyer for Eurolink, which operates two vessels from Sheerness to Vlissingen, and the company claims that freight volumes on the route are increasing.

Mersey Docks, however, indicated that the total cost of shutting down the operation when boat charters expire next April could amount to a further £3 million. That could bring the total losses from Eurolink to £13 million since Mersey Docks took over from Olau Line 18 months ago.

The slide in half-year profits also includes a weak performance from Mersey Dock's Irish Sea shipping businesses. Overcapacity caused a 19 per cent fall in profits at Coastal Container Line to £961,000 and a £633,000 loss from its half share in Merchant Ferries.

Mersey Docks is considering a new offer to striking dockworkers at the Port of Liverpool, a dispute which cost the company £600,000 during the period.

The Transport and General Workers Union has requested further meetings with Mersey Docks, which has indicated it is willing to negotiate. It is unlikely to agree to reinstate any of the 329 strikers sacked in September last year.

The company, where Trevor Furlong is chief executive, said it had incurred severance costs of £945,000 as a result of 42 voluntary redundancies after the closure of two stevedoring businesses.

Gordon Waddell, Mersey Docks chairman, said it was a matter of deep regret that the dispute had not been resolved. "The unofficial leaders of the dismissed dockers remain intransigent and continue to press their original demands which are wholly unacceptable."

Mersey Docks withdrew its offer of £25,000 compensation per man when ACL, a shipping customer left Liverpool earlier this year after pressure from strikers. ACL has since returned to the port.

Tempus, page 26



Trevor Furlong faces losses from the poor performance of Eurolink, overcapacity on the Irish Sea routes and a long-running dock dispute

Huge increase in number of boardroom disqualifications

BY JON ASHWORTH

THE Government yesterday reiterated its determination to stamp out corporate misconduct, as new figures showed a huge rise in the number of boardroom bans. John Taylor, Minister for Corporate and Consumer Affairs, said the Insolvency Service was on a mission to rid the business world of unfit directors.

The number of directors' disqualifications leapt 83 per cent in the second quarter of the year, compared with the same

period last year. Mr Taylor said the figures were clear evidence that corporate misconduct was being crushed. He said: "There will be no hiding place for those who abrogate or neglect their responsibility. It is not possible to slip through the net."

Mr Taylor said: "Directors must be alert to their responsibilities to the company, its creditors and shareholders. If they are not, they can expect to have their conduct put under

public scrutiny by the courts, and feel the full force of the law." The Insolvency Service is an executive agency of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

In March, Frank Warren, the boxing promoter, was banned from holding a directorship for seven years after a four-year investigation by the DTI. Mr Warren did not accept all the allegations made by the Official Receiver, but decided not to fight the ban

because of the pressure of working commitments. Terry Venables, the former England football manager, is scheduled to be in court on October 14, in a preliminary hearing arising from attempts to disqualify him over his business affairs.

Stephen Hinchliffe, the Sheffield businessman, is facing disqualification proceedings. Another case is outstanding against John Gunn, former chairman of British & Commonwealth.

The Insolvency Service is prepared to ask the Court of Appeal to increase the length of disqualifications in some cases. Last October, two directors of Copecrest, a security company, were disqualified for eight and four years respectively. The bans were increased to 12 and six years on appeal.

The number of disqualification orders soared to 203 in the three months to end-June, compared with 111 in the same period in 1995. However, the number of new disqualification proceedings fell sharply — 269 new cases, compared with 172 in the second quarter last year.

Offences ranged from failure to preserve company records, misusing bank accounts, false claims for VAT refunds, trading while insolvent, and excessive remuneration and benefits.

More than 3,400 directors have been banned from holding office in the ten years since the Company Directors' Disqualification Act (1986) came into effect.

Pennington, page 25

Doubt cast on German rate cut

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A STRONGER than expected German business survey caused more uncertainty in the markets about whether the Bundesbank will cut interest rates when it meets today.

The index published by the Ifo economic institute, a key barometer on confidence, bounced to 94.1 in July, its highest level for eight months. In June, the index had stood at a three-month low of 90.4. The

index was much healthier than analysts had expected with forecasts centred on 91.

The news dented the belief that the Bundesbank would trim a little off its key money market repurchase rate after this week's news of a relatively sharp slowdown in the annualised growth of German M3 money supply.

Ottmar Issing, the Bundesbank's chief econo-

mist, last week appeared to leave the way open for a cut in the repo rate if M3 growth were to slow further. He also said that he was not particularly confident in the sustainability of the German economic recovery.

However, the Ifo reading appeared to suggest that there had been a sudden surge of confidence in economic prospects, casting some doubt on

whether the Bundesbank will make a move.

The Ifo survey boosted the mark against the dollar and other European currencies and German bonds and shares fell. The main Frankfurt DAX share index closed floor trading 16.5 points down and extended its losses in post-bourse electronic trade. French shares fell as hopes of a French rate cut faded.

B&B mutuality costs £1m a week

BY ROBERT MILLER

BRADFORD & Bingley has revealed that the cost of returning profits to members through better interest rates for savers and borrowers as a sign of its commitment to mutuality, is running at about £1 million a week.

The UK's fourth largest building society, which yesterday unveiled pre-tax profits of £62.7 million in the six months to June 30 compared with £79.8 million, said new mortgage advances were up almost 90 per cent at £13 billion. Profits were also affected by fierce competition in the mortgage market and the society's prudent practice of incorporating the cost of mortgage cash-accounts into the accounts immediately.

Assets grew 10 per cent to £16.3 billion, largely as a result of the growth of the lending book. Administrative

expenses rose to £91.7 million (£87.3 million). In March the society sold B&B Bausparkasse, its small German savings bank, because of difficult domestic trading conditions.

Bradford & Bingley, the largest high street provider of independent financial advice, increased commission earnings 75 per cent in the first half. Commenting on the results Christopher Rodrigues, the new chief executive, said: "The results reflect the successful introduction of our members' benefits initiative, confirm our success in the mortgage market, underline the importance to the business of financial planning and show a continued strengthening of our reserves. They underpin the validity of our strategy to remain a leading mutual consumer-led financial services company."

Disgraced ex-banker quits trusts

BY JASON NISSE

CHARLES CAVANAGH, the former Kleinwort Benson banker who was this week convicted of child pornography offences, has resigned from two investment trusts run by Kleinwort.

The former priest, who is also a leading supporter of the Labour Party, resigned from his £300,000 a year job in the investment management side of Kleinwort last year after police seized 80 pornographic videos, 29 of which involved under-aged boys, from his home. Yesterday he resigned from two Kleinwort trusts which invest in second-hand endowment policies.

Steven Westwood, a Kleinwort director who is also on the board of both trusts, said that Cavanagh was allowed to stay on as a director while he decided what to do about his future.

French secure South East rail franchise

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE privatisation of British Rail passenger services passed the halfway mark yesterday when the South East Trains commuter franchise, the third biggest on the network, was sold to a French transport firm.

The award of the £233 million a year franchise to CGEA, a subsidiary of the Compagnie Générale des Eaux group, means that nine train operators, accounting for 50 per cent of rail passenger revenue, are in private hands. The remaining 16 franchises are expected to be sold by next April.

The 15-year franchise includes a commitment from CGEA to replace all the ageing "slam door" rolling stock on commuter routes to east London and Kent by 2006.

The first of the new air-conditioned trains will come



Young: better services

into service during 1999, replacing the oldest BR trains still operating on the British mainland, dating from between 1957 and 1961.

CGEA, which will operate under the name of Connex, also pledged to reduce the current £140 million a year subsidy to British Rail to

nothing and start contributing revenue to the Treasury by 2011. Other improvements include a £25 million investment programme in stations and passenger security, and new ticket systems and car parks.

South East, which operates from six main London stations, runs trains to southeast London, Kent, and parts of Sussex. It employs 4,000 staff.

The award gives CGEA control of a swathe of commuter services across South East England. It already runs the Network South Central franchise from Victoria, Charing Cross and London Bridge to south London, Surrey, Sussex and the South Coast.

Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, said the announcement was further proof that privatisation was delivering more and better services for passengers.

On track, page 27

Polygram buys rest of Go! Discs from founder

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY



Paul Weller is one of a number of talented performers nurtured by Go! Discs

POLYGRAM, the music and media company, yesterday bought out Go! Discs, the independent record company which has nurtured talent such as Paul Weller and Mercury Music Prize award winners Fortishead.

Polygram bought the remaining 51 per cent stake in the company for an undisclosed sum from Andy Macdonald, Go! Discs founder and managing director. Polygram first purchased a 49 per cent stake in the company in 1987.

Go! Discs has developed a reputation as one of Britain's leading independent record companies since it was estab-

lished in 1983. The company started life with a playlist that included Billy Bragg and the Housemartins. Its current roster includes the Beautiful South, Gabrielle and The Frank and Walters.

John Kennedy, chairman and chief executive of Polygram UK, said that he was confident Go! would continue to discover and develop new talent. But Mr Macdonald has chosen to leave the company, despite the efforts of Polygram to encourage him to stay on. He is understood to be reluctant to work within the framework of a large corporation.

The six major record com-

panies, which include PolyGram and EMI, have spent the last few years buying up successful independents and now control over 90 per cent of the music market. Richard Branson, who sold his own Virgin record business for £560 million to EMI in 1992, has said that he is interested in starting a new independent record label to plug the growing gap in the market.

The new venture, called V2 records, is expected to be launched in October. Mr Branson was prevented from launching a competing label for three years under terms of the EMI deal.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Glasgow power plan faces public inquiry

A CONTROVERSIAL plan by PowerGen to build a power station on the site of a former steelworks near Glasgow is now set to go to a public inquiry after local councillors opposed the move. PowerGen said it regretted the decision by the planning committee of North Lanarkshire council and added: "We remain committed to our aim of delivering competitively priced electricity to customers in Scotland." In the first big foray north of the border by an English generator, PowerGen wants to build a £120 million gas-fired power station.

The move is being resisted by unions and Labour MPs. They claim that the plant would provide just 35 jobs, but threaten up to 1,000 other jobs in the Scottish power and mining industry. There is now likely to be a public inquiry. The Scottish TUC said: "There will be some relief in Scotland's power stations and coal industry that the immediate threat of closure and job cuts has been lifted."

Volvo concern eases

VOLVO, the Swedish automotive group, yesterday delivered a slightly higher than expected first-half profit, prompting a sigh of relief from financial markets. Analysts had expressed concern about Volvo's performance in the first six months as it battled against falling market share, higher costs and a production generation shift. But a first-half pre-tax profit of 3.86 billion Swedish crowns (£376.9 million) on sales of SKr73.06 billion, against SKr53.33 billion a year ago on SKr65.13 billion sales, appeared market fears, coming in a touch higher than the forecast SKr3.37 billion.

BA studies cargo link-up

PROSPECTS for closer links between the air cargo operations of British Airways and American Airlines are very favourable. Tom Harwood, American's cargo spokesman, said yesterday. A joint implementation group set up by the two carriers on aligning their cargo operations will present its findings at an August 29 meeting in New York to William Boesch, American's cargo president, and Kevin Hatton, managing director of BA World Cargo. Mr Harwood added. The presentation will cover "five key issues" on the feasibility of a more integrated operation, he said.

Porterbrook backing

STAGECOACH has received acceptances under its controversial £475 million bid for Porterbrook, the railway rolling stock company, in respect of all the shares subject to the offer. The offer remains conditional on the outcome of two extraordinary meetings to be convened for Stagecoach and Porterbrook shareholders next Tuesday. Details of elections made under the loan note, cash and additional share alternatives will be disclosed when the offers become unconditional in all respects next Wednesday.

Sabena recovery talks

SABENA, the Belgian national airline, launched a crucial round of talks with trade unions aimed at bringing the company back into profit from 1998. The airline needs to achieve additional savings of Bfr 4.7 billion (£99 million) by 1998. Paul Reutlinger, chief executive, also proposes to sell Sabena's catering division and hire out cargo capacity. Swissair owns 49.5 per cent of Sabena. The rest is held by the Belgian state. Erik Sclap, Sabena spokesman, said the talks are due to be finalised by the end of October. Management and unions had agreed not to comment until then.

Recycling jobs created

ALMOST 400 jobs will be created in a multi-million pound development to reclaim and recycle redundant oil and gas rigs. The scheme, unveiled by Able UK yesterday, believed to be the first of its kind in Europe, will be based at the former Graythorpe construction yard on the Hartlepool side of the Tees estuary. It will handle redundant offshore structures and provide marine, engineering and associated services. The jobs will be created over five years.

EW Fact degrees better

EW FACT, the business studies tutor, achieved record results for the six months to June 30 after it halved the price of its accountancy courses to lure back students who had left. Its expansion into business degrees and MBAs also helped to restore enrolment levels. Pre-tax profits more than tripled to £932,000 (£272,000) on sales of £5.48 million (£4.70 million). Earnings were 3.4p per share, up from 1p. An interim payout of 0.9p, the first since 1994, will be paid on November 15. The shares rose 7p to a year high of 52p yesterday.

Shorco holds payout

SHORCO GROUP HOLDINGS, the plant hire and security accommodation company, is holding the interim dividend at 2p a share in spite of reporting pre-tax profits of £412,000, up from £131,000, in the half year to the June 30. Earnings were 4.4p a share, up from 3.6p. Comparable figures for 1995 were struck after the payment of £134,000 in compensation to a former director for loss of office. A contribution from Lydney Containers, acquired last year, had offset the impact of difficult trading conditions in the plant hire business.

Pay ahead of inflation

PAY deals in private companies this summer have been running ahead of inflation at between 3 per cent and 4 per cent, a report shows today. Recent settlements have been nearer 3 per cent, but it would be premature to assume that pay levels are set on a downward trend. Income Data Services, the pay analysts said, pay awards are higher than a year ago and there is no evidence that settlements are moving downwards in step with inflation, which currently stands at 2.2 per cent.

Kmart stores climb back to the black

KMART, the struggling American retailer, reported a profit for the second quarter ending July 31. Net income from continuing operations was \$34 million compared with a loss of \$54 million a year ago. Comparable results included a loss from discontinued operations of \$78 million. Like-for-like sales rose 1.0 per cent, although total sales fell 1.5 per cent. Sales at the 2,143 Kmart stores and 108 Builders Square retail outlets slipped 1.5 per cent to \$8.31 billion from \$8.44 billion. Comparable sales for US Kmart stores increased 2.2 per cent for the quarter, and 2.9 per cent for the first six months of 1996.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.05	1.99
Austria S	17.21	15.71
Belgium Fr	56.43	48.13
Canada \$	2.22	2.072
Denmark Kr	0.747	0.682
Finland M	8.47	6.87
France Fr	7.49	6.84
Germany Dm	8.28	7.91
Greece Dr	2.48	2.25
Hong Kong \$	383	359
Ireland P	12.10	11.61
Israel Sh	1.13	1.08
Italy L	1.01	0.98
Japan Yen	5.26	4.91
Netherlands Gld	2456	2201
Malta	182.10	168.10
Norway Kr	0.599	0.540
Portugal Esc	247.00	232.00
Spain P	16.50	15.50
Sweden S	7.94	7.28
Switzerland Fr	201.00	188.00
Taiwan N	10.05	10.05
Switzerland Fr	2.00	1.82
USA \$	1.36304	1.28594
	1.046	1.016

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Official rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Liberty
Life soars
by 58% at
halfway



Gordon: on...

MMC

THE Monopoly...
Commission...
said to be...
over moves to...
contracts.
The weaver of...
have been told...
group, that...
entitled to...
priority in...
ing year. But the...

□ Ofgas compromise still spells sad future for TransCo □ Marque's role not settled □ A holidaymakers' charter

Clare and present danger

CLARE Spottiswoode has pulled a classic stroke, even if it is not entirely original. Her initial numbers suggested for British Gas were the most stringent imposed by any regulator. By reducing the two headline variables, the one-off cut and the ongoing price cap, she makes herself seem magnanimous, and undermines any protest from the company. Not for nothing is she becoming our most popular regulator by far.

Her other areas of compromise are a willingness to review the proposed new regime after three years, not five, and the placing of a higher valuation on British Gas itself. She initially said the TransCo International arm, to be demerged next year, was worth between £9 billion and £11 billion. Now, through clenched teeth it would seem, she is prepared to accept a valuation of £11.7 billion.

The methodology by which she has reached this is arcane, but it is likely to be the centre of the debate if the matter reaches the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Ofgas has taken the worth of the assets of British Gas at three fifths of their book value. Allowing depreciation to be charged at a reduced rate enables an increased asset value. British Gas says this new figure still undervalues the assets.

The effect of this higher valuation should be to allow the company to raise revenues by £96 million a year. But British Gas in addition says this figure cannot be reconciled with the effects of Ms Spottiswoode's price cuts. Insiders at the company take an even more hawkish view than its published pronouncements; if there is no give at all, an MMC reference is inevitable. One might have a view on how much of this is posturing. Gas has not had much joy out of the MMC in the past, while a reference would drag the matter out until next spring, quite possibly leaving its final resolution in the hands of a Labour government with no great reason to love the successors to Cedric Brown.

But assume, for a moment, that yesterday's proposals are eventually imposed, and TransCo demerged. What a sad, pinched existence it faces. The company says half its workforce, perhaps 10,000 jobs, would have to go. In fact they would not. There are three main variables the board can trim: labour costs, capital spending and dividends. The workforce would slim to

the irreducible minimum needed to do the work, a figure by definition somewhere between 10,000 and 20,000 — only British Gas knows where. The rest of the Ofgas-imposed savings would come out of capital spending, again down to an irreducible minimum required to ensure safety, and out of the dividend. That has no such minimum save zero, and it might have to take the brunt of the cut, depending on how the numbers stack up. The market is expecting a dividend cut anyway. But clearly if Ms Spottiswoode has her way, the future as a TransCo shareholder looks bleak indeed.

Bridgeman across the milk divide

IF YOU thought British Gas regulation was complicated, you want to see how they do things down on the farm. Milk is a strange business, the complexities of its market being in inverse proportion to the simplicity of the actual product. The curious workings of Milk Marque, the co-operative that



controls two-thirds of the milk supply in England and Wales, have always provoked extreme hostility from big dairy companies such as Northern Foods.

Milk Marque is making us pay over the odds for our daily pint, they say. This impudent suggestion was recently thrown out by the MPs on the agricultural select committee — but then farmers have votes too, you understand.

Between these vested interests comes John Bridgeman, Director-General of the Office of Fair Trading. At first sight, the actions he is taking seem modest. He has rejected referring Milk Marque to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Instead, Milk Marque will have to

change its bidding process. This will allow prices to fall if there is not enough demand from the dairy companies to take up the available supply. There will be a cap placed on the opening price at which Milk Marque can invite bids. And dairy companies will no longer have to bid blind. Milk Marque will publish its forecasts of the volume of milk available, and details from earlier rounds of bidding.

The present round of milk pricing, the outcome of which should be known this week, already incorporated the most important of the OFT's changes. The main benefit the dairy industry will see is that the new regime is much more transparent. Milk Marque's discretion will be substantially eroded by the new rules.

Whether we have arrived at a stable solution is questionable. The present pricing round has raised some new doubts over this peculiar quasi-market. Ultimately, the big dairy processors want to buy more of their milk direct from the farmers. Milk Marque's continuing control over milk haulage can expect to

be the subject of an early challenge in the courts. It will not be the last — until the big dairy firms get their way.

Flight of fancy

THOSE 2,000 holidaymakers who spent last weekend at Gatwick airport will have been amused to learn of the reaction of the Civil Aviation Authority to their plight. Well, not amused exactly, in fact if any are reading they had better stop here. The CAA, the air industry regulator, said it was all their fault for using cheap charter flights rather than a scheduled service.

Pass on from asking how they were supposed to have known they were booked on a cheap charter flight and what other sort there is in the mass holiday industry. Consider instead what a useful extension of the product liability laws the CAA has suggested. None of this "merchantable quality" or "fit for its purpose" nonsense: your car's only got three wheels, sir? What did you expect? It's a cheap one.

Food poisoning? Should have paid more for that sandwich.

Then extend the idea to financial services. An entire swathe of regulatory machinery swept away, all those funny little acronyms, the whole upset Scramble-board of SFAs, Sibs and Fimbras. Regulation by cost. A really expensive pension, so it must be a good one, last you for years. The more expensive the broker, the better the advice. But deal through one of those execution-only stockbrokers or one of the big banks, and you can expect your money to disappear on the next flight to Rio.

Bar code

IF WE are to believe the relevant government minister, and it does go against the grain, then corporate misconduct is being "crushed" because disqualifications of directors are rising. This is a little like claiming burglaries are reducing because more and more people are being jailed for them, but never mind. Anyway, just how effective a sanction is disqualification? Plenty of rogues have continued running businesses while officially barred, as any consumer watchdog will tell you. Better, surely, a probationary period after the first offence, and then criminal charges for reoffenders.

Liberty Life soars by 58% at halfway

BY MARTIN BARROW

LIBERTY LIFE Association of Africa, the South African life assurance company that holds a controlling 74.3 per cent interest in Britain's Liberty International Holdings, yesterday reported net profits of £99.4 million for the half-year to the end of June, a 57.9 per cent increase over the first half of the previous year.

The profits increase, assisted by accounting changes, left the company on track to achieve its target of 20 per cent growth in the current year, said Donald Gordon, chairman and founder of the company.

Total new business written by the Liberty Life Group amounted to £342 million, a 26 per cent advance over the same period of 1995.

Mr Gordon said Liberty Life would continue to maintain its standards by selling quality products. "As far as Liberty Life is concerned, we are maintaining our standards... and really we are not going to follow all the speculative approaches that some of our competitors are doing."

Total assets were £11.4 billion at June 30, rising from £10.4 billion. Total capital at June 30 was £3.5 billion, including convertible bonds.

Mr Gordon said the UK activities of Liberty International Holdings had benefited from the establishment of a specialist pensions operation and the launch of Liberty International Jersey, Liberty International, which was formerly Transatlantic Holdings, lifted interim profits to £56.1 million before tax from £50.3 million.



Gordon: on track

Sale of components division helps Marley to £63.2m profit

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

MARLEY, the building materials group, yesterday unveiled a fall in underlying profits in the first half and said that while most overseas markets were recovering, the UK remains gloomy.

In the six months ended June 30 the company made an underlying pre-tax profit of £20.6 million compared with £24.1 million a year ago. The results were boosted, however, by an exceptional gain of £42.6 million from the sale of its automotive components division and two related joint ventures which took pre-tax profits to £63.2 million. The sale, which raised £75 million in all, has taken gearing down to 28.7 per cent from 53.7 per cent. Group operating profits were £800,000 ahead at £25.9 million.

David Trapnell, chief executive, said that while overseas markets have generally recovered in the second quarter, the UK market has been disappointing and remains uncertain because of slow new house building. The UK now accounts for about one-third of the company's business, compared with 50 per cent at the same time last year. In terms of operating profit, the UK accounted for just 20 per cent in the first half of this year compared with 40 per cent a year ago.

The biggest disappointment, Mr Trapnell said, came in sales of roof tiles in the UK. Sales were down by around 15 per cent in the first half. Also disappointing was the depressed South African market. Operations in continental



David Trapnell said more acquisitions in plastics may be in the pipeline but the UK market remains gloomy

Europe were badly affected by harsh weather in the first quarter but finished the period strongly. Operating profits at Syroco, the US plastic furniture company acquired in March last year, were stronger at £7.6 million because of a sharp drop in PVC prices. In the second quarter of last year,

immediately following its acquisition, Syroco made £2 million operating profit.

The group is looking at making further bolt-on acquisitions, particularly in plastics, Mr Trapnell said.

Marley is maintaining its interim dividend, payable on November 1, at 2.1p. Reported

earnings per share were 15.8p and adjusted were 4.1p, compared with 5.1p last year.

City analysts downgraded their forecasts for the full year, with UBS moving its estimate from £51 million to £47.5 million.

Tempus, page 26

Lloyd's awaits American court ruling

BY JON ASHWORTH

LLOYD's of London will learn today whether attempts to block damaging court action by a group of American names have been successful. Developments in Richmond, Virginia, will have a key bearing on the fate of the Lloyd's £3.2 billion settlement plan.

US District Judge Robert Payne is expected to decide today on whether to grant requests for an injunction on the Lloyd's reconstruction and renewal (R&R) proposals. About 100 names have called for a freeze on R&R, saying they require full financial disclosure before deciding whether to back the proposals. Lloyd's has argued that the case should be heard in the UK.

The court adjourned yesterday after a two-day hearing, in which Ron Sandler, the Lloyd's chief executive, endured lengthy stints in the witness box. Judge Payne pressed Lloyd's on the issue of disclosure, saying: "I want to know how difficult it is to give these people what they want."

He told counsel for Lloyd's, including Harvey Pitt, a prominent Washington securities lawyer, that he was willing to "wait all night" to obtain a satisfactory answer.

Lloyd's later said it could take months to gather the information required. It is anxious about the uncertainty caused by the Virginia action so close to the deadline for acceptance of the settlement offer. Up to 34,000 names worldwide have until noon next Wednesday in which to return their acceptance forms to Lloyd's.

Judge Payne gave no indication on how he intends to rule, but asked several questions about how an injunction might be drafted. He asked counsel for the American names to provide a draft injunction for his guidance. The judge also indicated that any ruling he might make against Lloyd's would be limited to forcing additional disclosures for names in America.

Mr Sandler has been forced to break off a series of media briefings to attend proceedings in Virginia. Lloyd's has kept up the pressure on names, warning of the consequences for those who reject the settlement offer. It has stressed its readiness to pursue names for their outstanding liabilities, noting that recent court actions have reconfirmed its ability to act swiftly and effectively.

GrandMet chooses IDV chief

BY OUR CITY STAFF

GRAND Metropolitan, the UK wines and spirits group, yesterday named Chuck Phillips as president of IDV Americas, part of the company's International Distillers and Vintners subsidiary.

Mr Phillips is currently president and chief executive of Kraft Canada Incorporated. He will join IDV in early September when he will become a member of IDV's board.

As president of IDV Americas, Mr Phillips will have responsibility for IDV's American drinks businesses, including Heublein, the Raddington Corporation and Carillon Importers. Gilbey Canada and IDV South America will also come under his wing.

Yesterday GrandMet briefed City analysts about developments at Pillsbury, its US food subsidiary. The company's shares fell 3½p to 474p.

Perpetual weighs options on life firms' merger plan

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

PERPETUAL, the leading fund manager, has said it will be several days before it reaches a decision on whether to oppose the merger of Refuge Assurance, in which it holds a 7 per cent stake, and United Friendly.

Perpetual had threatened to sue against the proposed merger between the two life companies at a shareholders' meeting on September 9 because it believed Refuge shareholders were being shortchanged by the deal.

The merger would create a new company, United Assurance, with a market value of £15 billion and £6.5 billion assets under management.

After meeting members of Refuge's board yesterday, Neil Woodford, Perpetual's senior investment manager, said he had been broadly comforted by Refuge's presentation, but was still reviewing his options.

He added: "I still have the reservations I had prior to the

meeting, but it will take several days for me to weigh up the information I have heard. I also wish to consult a number of other people whose opinions I respect."

The meeting at Perpetual's headquarters was attended by John Cudworth, Refuge's chief executive, George Mack,

group finance director and deputy chief executive of United Friendly, and William McDonald, Refuge's financial director.

Mr Woodford objects to the £631 million assessment of Refuge's embedded value. He believes the figure is closer to £1 billion.



John Cudworth, left, with George Mack of United

State sues tobacco companies for \$14bn

FROM REUTERS IN LANSING

MICHIGAN became the 13th state to take the tobacco industry to court yesterday, filing a lawsuit seeking \$14 billion in damages from leading tobacco companies and their wholesale distributors.

Frank Kelley, Michigan Attorney-General, said the suit, which names 28 separate defendants, sought \$2 billion in restitution to the state for past smoking-related healthcare costs, \$2 billion for future anticipated healthcare costs and \$10 billion in punitive damages.

The suit, filed in Ingham County Circuit Court in Lansing, also asks the court to order tobacco companies to disclose all research information on the effects of smoking that relate to public-health issues.

It requests they pay for a corrective public education campaign, issue corrective statements on the health risks of smoking and stop advertising that targets children, and pay civil penalties for violations of the Consumer Protection and Anti-Trust Reform acts.

Mr Kelley said: "Every year in Michigan, thousands of addicted smokers die from using tobacco company products precisely as the merchants of death have designed and intended for those products to be used."

Through a well-organised campaign of fraud, lies, intimidation and deception, the tobacco companies have avoided legal responsibility for engineering, manufacturing and selling the most deadly and harmful consumer product in history while reaping billions of dollars in profit.

MMC may weave into a rural row

BY A CORRESPONDENT

THE Monopolies and Mergers Commission is being asked to investigate the rural world of Harris Tweed, where Scottish islanders are said to be confused and worried over moves to introduce personal contracts.

The weavers of Lewis and Harris have been told by Macleod-Mackenzie, the islands' largest mill group, that signing an exclusive contract is the only way to get priority in supplying future weaving yarn. But the move has angered

a rival fledgling tweed producer that yesterday called on the commission to investigate. The new co-operative mill company, Harris Tweed Weavers, claims the offer of personal contracts is a restrictive practice by a near-monopoly supplier and is raising significant barriers to the entry of new competitors.

Donald Morrison, a director of Harris Tweed Weavers, said: "This sort of thing goes against the spirit of weaving as a community industry. The aim should be to get as much work as possible for the islands' weavers — not for the mills to try to do

each other down." More than 400 home-based weavers have been asked to sign the contract that also offers technical advice and a close working relationship to those who agree to become so-called premier weavers.

A 44-year-old weaver from Lewis said that the matter had left the islands' weavers "really confused and worried" about the best way forward for them to secure work.

He added: "I think we all want to be independent, but also want steady work. Whatever we decide to do, we will be upsetting someone."

The Inland Revenue has been

brought into the as the new co-operative has given a warning that weavers could lose their self-employment status if they signed an exclusive contract.

Harris Tweed is made from pure new wool and is handmade by crofters in their homes. It is known as a hardwearing fabric widely used in tailoring, fashion and furnishings.

Recent developments in the industry have seen the introduction of new double-width looms that can also cope better with lighter grades of cloths that are more sought after by the international fashion industry.

CHESHIRE BUILDING SOCIETY

6-MONTH'S GROUP RESULTS (UNAUDITED)

	6 months to 30th June 1996 £'000s	6 months to 30th June 1995 £'000s
Net Interest Receivable	15,588	12,938
Other Income and Charges	4,344	3,173
Total Income	19,932	16,111
Administrative Expenses	8,198	7,256
Operating Profit before Provisions	11,734	8,855
Provisions for Loans, Advances and Guarantees	1,280	1,750
Profit on Ordinary Activities	10,454	7,105
Tax on Profit on Ordinary Activities	3,450	2,344
Profit for the Half Year	7,004	4,761
Gross Capital	121,887	109,831
Total Assets (£m)	1,558.3 m	1,508.2 m

The Group results as above are unaudited

- Asset growth for the half year of 3.3%
- Strong gross capital position of 8.7%
- Mortgage losses reduced by 27%

Paul Hughes, Chief Executive commented:

"The results reflect a strong half year's performance. The first six months' level of profitability has however, been exceptional but is unlikely to be sustainable in the second half of the year following adjustments to the interest rate margin arising from both competitive product offers and the Society's mutual stance."

It is particularly pleasing to see mortgage losses reduce significantly, a trend which is also reflected in our level of mortgage arrears.

The strong capital position and relatively low management expense ratio will enable the Society to continue to compete successfully."



Cheshire Building Society, Castle Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 6AE

STOCK MARKET

OLIVER AUGUST

Gas shares edge ahead as regulator eases off

DWARFING the volume of all other fast-trading shares, British Gas saw 27 million of its shares change hands yesterday. Analysts strongly disagreed with the group's response to the Ofgas announcement of a 20 per cent compulsory price cut for its pipeline business. While the utility's managers protested, brokers raised their share price target and the shares rose sharply.

Analysts said improved revenue projections and other factors under the proposed regime would improve the British Gas dividend.

Speculation had it that the initial enthusiasm would reverse should the group choose to reject the final proposal very strongly.

The real test for the share price will come should British Gas decide to take the issue to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC).

A leading analyst, who declined to be named, said the Ofgas proposals were "very good", with the regulator conceding ground in several key areas. "British Gas would be absolutely mad to go to the MMC after this," he said.

The share price has languished since the original pricing proposals were published but bounced back yesterday, climbing 6 1/2p to 204 1/2p. The Calor Group was lifted in the utility's slipstream, up 3p to 247p.

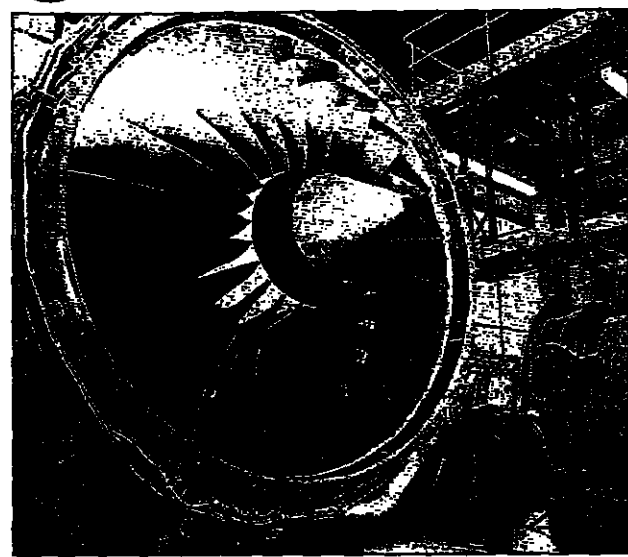
In the transport sector, Mersey Docks & Harbours was the biggest loser. Analysts said they would downgrade their full-year forecasts for the group after £4.5 million losses at Eurolink took the market by surprise.

Inigo Edsberg at Panmure Gordon said the exceptional charges caused the fall, but he pointed out that the shares could be extremely cheap next year. "They are not a sell," he said. The shares closed at 404p, down 11p.

British Airways fell 6p to 530p as the battle to push through the alliance with American Airlines continues.

Rolls-Royce announced it had won a £60 million order from UPS for engines for five more Boeing 757s. This raises the package carrier's total number of Rolls-Royce powered 757s to 40. The share moved from 218 1/2p to 222p.

In the banking sector, NatWest was down to 674p from 689p after SBC Warburg moved from a "buy" to a



A £60m order boosted shares in Rolls-Royce by 3 1/2p

"hold" note. HSBC was down 3p to £11.62 and Allied Irish Bank was down 2 1/2p to 364p after repurchasing \$100 million of its own undated variable rate notes. Abbey National was up 5p to 602p.

GradMet shares were off their record high due to some profit-taking. They were down 2 1/2p from 477p. The company had called in analysts to

explain the situation at the Pillsbury food business. The presentation was said to have been well received.

Railtrack slipped after yesterday's talk of US stake-building, ending the day at 248 1/2p, down from 255 1/2p.

British Telecom traded up 1/2p to 374p on the news that it will introduce new pricing systems. Cable & Wireless, now ex-dividend, rose to

81p. Most of the business trading sector was stable but Reed also moved up from 131p to 133p.

On the Alternative Investment Market, Marine & Mercantile, oil developers, said they are aiming to secure a field development project as soon as possible which, along with its Czech project, will lead to early cash flow. It said two new ventures of this type are

in the early stages of evaluation and negotiations in the Ukraine have been continuing. The share price rose from 77p to 80p.

Shares in Zergo, the information securities product company, also rose after full-year results. Beeson Gregory, house broker, put a "buy" tag on the stock and it went up 10p to 23p. Zergo incurred a £25,000 pre-tax loss but the small profit before

exceptionals was seen as a reassuring result.

Moorefield Estates, the property company, saw its share price remain unchanged after its open offer closed on Tuesday. A 49.69 per cent take-up on the offer was achieved, the company said yesterday.

Better than expected profits lifted stocks in Marley, the building materials company, from 123p to 125p. Overseas markets, where almost two-thirds of Marley's activities are now based, are said to be growing strongly, while the UK market remains "uncertain".

Analysts remained uncertain about the prospects of a further rate cut. Weaker than expected UK July retail sales volumes could give Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, reason to make a cutting trend in retail sales remains strong.

Andrew Smith, Credit Lyonnais economist, said: "While the underlying trend is upwards, this figure will not stop Clarke if he wants to ease interest rates."

□ GILT-EDGED: The Bundesbank Council meets today for the first time since the summer recess and futures traders' thoughts were already on a possible German interest rate change.

"The only thing that will help stabilise the markets now is a move by the Bundesbank to cut the repo rate," said one broker. Uncertainty has increased in the markets since early this week when an independent report showed the German economy moving towards more growth. September gilt futures settled at £107.15 down £1 1/2.

□ NEW YORK-Shares on Wall Street continued to drop, with investors particularly concerned over another looming liability challenge for Philip Morris. The Dow Jones Industrial average was 37.36 points lower by midday.

BRITISH GAS: UP AGAIN AFTER BIG FALL

BRITISH GAS: UP AGAIN AFTER BIG FALL

BRITISH GAS: UP AGAIN AFTER BIG FALL

BRITISH GAS: UP AGAIN AFTER BIG FALL

BRITISH GAS: UP AGAIN AFTER BIG FALL

BRITISH GAS: UP AGAIN AFTER BIG FALL

BRITISH GAS: UP AGAIN AFTER BIG FALL

BRITISH GAS: UP AGAIN AFTER BIG FALL

in the early stages of evaluation and negotiations in the Ukraine have been continuing. The share price rose from 77p to 80p.

Shares in Zergo, the information securities product company, also rose after full-year results. Beeson Gregory, house broker, put a "buy" tag on the stock and it went up 10p to 23p. Zergo incurred a £25,000 pre-tax loss but the small profit before

exceptionals was seen as a reassuring result.

Moorefield Estates, the property company, saw its share price remain unchanged after its open offer closed on Tuesday. A 49.69 per cent take-up on the offer was achieved, the company said yesterday.

Better than expected profits lifted stocks in Marley, the building materials company, from 123p to 125p. Overseas markets, where almost two-thirds of Marley's activities are now based, are said to be growing strongly, while the UK market remains "uncertain".

Analysts remained uncertain about the prospects of a further rate cut. Weaker than expected UK July retail sales volumes could give Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, reason to make a cutting trend in retail sales remains strong.

Andrew Smith, Credit Lyonnais economist, said: "While the underlying trend is upwards, this figure will not stop Clarke if he wants to ease interest rates."

□ GILT-EDGED: The Bundesbank Council meets today for the first time since the summer recess and futures traders' thoughts were already on a possible German interest rate change.

"The only thing that will help stabilise the markets now is a move by the Bundesbank to cut the repo rate," said one broker. Uncertainty has increased in the markets since early this week when an independent report showed the German economy moving towards more growth. September gilt futures settled at £107.15 down £1 1/2.

□ NEW YORK-Shares on Wall Street continued to drop, with investors particularly concerned over another looming liability challenge for Philip Morris. The Dow Jones Industrial average was 37.36 points lower by midday.

BRITISH GAS: UP AGAIN AFTER BIG FALL

BRITISH GAS: UP AGAIN AFTER BIG FALL

BRITISH GAS: UP AGAIN AFTER BIG FALL

BRITISH GAS: UP AGAIN AFTER BIG FALL

BRITISH GAS: UP AGAIN AFTER BIG FALL

BRITISH GAS: UP AGAIN AFTER BIG FALL

BRITISH GAS: UP AGAIN AFTER BIG FALL

BRITISH GAS: UP AGAIN AFTER BIG FALL

BRITISH GAS: UP AGAIN AFTER BIG FALL

BRITISH GAS: UP AGAIN AFTER BIG FALL

BRITISH GAS: UP AGAIN AFTER BIG FALL

BRITISH GAS: UP AGAIN AFTER BIG FALL

BRITISH GAS: UP AGAIN AFTER BIG FALL

BRITISH GAS: UP AGAIN AFTER BIG FALL

BRITISH GAS: UP AGAIN AFTER BIG FALL

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	5857.90 (+37.36)
S&P Composite	663.32 (+2.47)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	21,275.02 (+148.01)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	11,426.50 (+123.96)
Amsterdam:	
EOE index	599.48 (+6.24)
Sydney:	
ASX	2286.0 (+21.3)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2543.74 (+16.52)
Singapore:	
SEAC	2155.60 (+31.79)
Brussels:	
General	9522.98 (+27.43)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2003.64 (+16.62)
Zurich:	
SEA Gen	770.80 (+3.30)
London:	
FT 100	2808.4 (+11.4)
FTSE 100	387.4 (+1.1)
FTSE 100 250	437.4 (+1.1)
FTSE 100 350	497.4 (+1.2)
FTSE 100 450	557.4 (+1.3)
FTSE 100 550	617.4 (+1.4)
FTSE 100 650	677.4 (+1.5)
FTSE 100 750	737.4 (+1.6)
FTSE 100 850	797.4 (+1.7)
FTSE 100 950	857.4 (+1.8)
FTSE 100 1050	917.4 (+1.9)
FTSE 100 1150	977.4 (+2.0)
FTSE 100 1250	1037.4 (+2.1)
FTSE 100 1350	1097.4 (+2.2)
FTSE 100 1450	1157.4 (+2.3)
FTSE 100 1550	1217.4 (+2.4)
FTSE 100 1650	1277.4 (+2.5)
FTSE 100 1750	1337.4 (+2.6)
FTSE 100 1850	1397.4 (+2.7)
FTSE 100 1950	1457.4 (+2.8)
FTSE 100 2050	1517.4 (+2.9)
FTSE 100 2150	1577.4 (+3.0)
FTSE 100 2250	1637.4 (+3.1)
FTSE 100 2350	1697.4 (+3.2)
FTSE 100 2450	1757.4 (+3.3)
FTSE 100 2550	1817.4 (+3.4)
FTSE 100 2650	1877.4 (+3.5)
FTSE 100 2750	1937.4 (+3.6)
FTSE 100 2850	1997.4 (+3.7)
FTSE 100 2950	2057.4 (+3.8)
FTSE 100 3050	2117.4 (+3.9)
FTSE 100 3150	2177.4 (+4.0)
FTSE 100 3250	2237.4 (+4.1)
FTSE 100 3350	2297.4 (+4.2)
FTSE 100 3450	2357.4 (+4.3)
FTSE 100 3550	2417.4 (+4.4)
FTSE 100 3650	2477.4 (+4.5)
FTSE 100 3750	2537.4 (+4.6)
FTSE 100 3850	2597.4 (+4.7)
FTSE 100 3950	2657.4 (+4.8)
FTSE 100 4050	2717.4 (+4.9)
FTSE 100 4150	2777.4 (+5.0)
FTSE 100 4250	2837.4 (+5.1)
FTSE 100 4350	2897.4 (+5.2)
FTSE 100 4450	2957.4 (+5.3)
FTSE 100 4550	3017.4 (+5.4)
FTSE 100 4650	3077.4 (+5.5)
FTSE 100 4750	3137.4 (+5.6)
FTSE 100 4850	3197.4 (+5.7)
FTSE 100 4950	3257.4 (+5.8)
FTSE 100 5050	3317.4 (+5.9)
FTSE 100 5150	3377.4 (+6.0)
FTSE 100 5250	3437.4 (+6.1)
FTSE 100 5350	3497.4 (+6.2)
FTSE 100 5450	3557.4 (+6.3)
FTSE 100 5550	3617.4 (+6.4)
FTSE 100 5650	3677.4 (+6.5)
FTSE 100 5750	3737.4 (+6.6)
FTSE 100 5850	3797.4 (+6.7)
FTSE 100 5950	3857.4 (+6.8)
FTSE 100 6050	3917.4 (+6.9)
FTSE 100 6150	3977.4 (+7.0)
FTSE 100 6250	4037.4 (+7.1)
FTSE 100 6350	4097.4 (+7.2)
FTSE 100 6450	4157.4 (+7.3)
FTSE 100 6550	4217.4 (+7.4)
FTSE 100 6650	4277.4 (+7.5)
FTSE 100 6750	4337.4 (+7.6)
FTSE 100 6850	4397.4 (+7.7)
FTSE 100 6950	4457.4 (+7.8)
FTSE 100 7050	4517.4 (+7.9)
FTSE 100 7150	4577.4 (+8.0)
FTSE 100 7250	4637.4 (+8.1)
FTSE 100 7350	4697.4 (+8.2)
FTSE 100 7450	4757.4 (+8.3)
FTSE 100 7550	4817.4 (+8.4)
FTSE 100 7650	4877.4 (+8.5)
FTSE 100 7750	4937.4 (+8.6)
FTSE 100 7850	4997.4 (+8.7)
FTSE 100 7950	5057.4 (+8.8)
FTSE 100 8050	5117.4 (+8.9)
FTSE 100 8150	5177.4 (+9.0)
FTSE 100 8250	5237.4 (+9.1)
FTSE 100 8350	5297.4 (+9.2)
FTSE 100 8450	5357.4 (+9.3)
FTSE 100 8550	5417.4 (+9.4)
FTSE 100 8650	5477.4 (+9.5)
FTSE 100 8750	5537.4 (+9.6)
FTSE 100 8850	5597.4 (+9.7)
FTSE 100 8950	5657.4 (+9.8)
FTSE 100 9050	5717.4 (+9.9)
FTSE 100 9150	5777.4 (+10.0)
FTSE 100 9250	5837.4 (+10.1)
FTSE 100 9350	5897.4 (+10.2)
FTSE 100 9450	5957.4 (+10.3)
FTSE 100 9550	6017.4 (+10.4)
FTSE 100 9650	6077.4 (+10.5)
FTSE 100 9750	6137.4 (+10.6)
FTSE 100 9850	6197.4 (+10.7)
FTSE 100 9950	6257.4 (+10.8)
FTSE 100 10050	6317.4 (+10.9)
FTSE 100 10150	6377.4 (+11.0)
FTSE 100 10250	6437.4 (+11.1)
FTSE 100 10350	6497.4 (+11.2)
FTSE 100 10450	6557.4 (+11.3)
FTSE 100 10550	6617.4 (+11.4)
FTSE 100 10650	6677.4 (+11.5)
FTSE 100 10750	6737.4 (+11.6)
FTSE 100 10850	6797.4 (+11.7)
FTSE 100 10950	6857.4 (+11.8)
FTSE 100 11050	6917.4 (+11.9)
FTSE 100 11150	6977.4 (+12.0)
FTSE 100 11250	7037.4 (+12.1)
FTSE 100 11350	7097.4 (+12.2)
FTSE 100 11450	7157.4 (+12.3)
FTSE 100 11550	7217.4 (+12.4)
FTSE 100 11650	7277.4 (+12.5)
FTSE 100 11750	7337.4 (+12.6)
FTSE 100 11850	7397.4 (+12.7)
FTSE 100 11950	7457.4 (+12.8)
FTSE 100 12050	7517.4 (+12.9)
FTSE 100 12150	7577.4 (+13.0)
FTSE 100 12250	7637.4 (+13.1)
FTSE 100 12350	7697.4 (+13.2)
FTSE 100 12450	7757.4 (+13.3)
FTSE 100 12550	7817.4 (+13.4)
FTSE 100 12650	7877.4 (+13.5)
FTSE 100 12750	7937.4 (+13.6)
FTSE 100 12850	7997.4 (+13.7)
FTSE 100 12950	8057.4 (+13.8)
FTSE 100 13050	8117.4 (+13.9)
FTSE 100 13150	8177.4 (+14.0)
FTSE 100 13250	8237.4 (+14.1)
FTSE 100 13350	8297.4 (+14.2)
FTSE 100 13450	8357.4 (+14.3)
FTSE 100 13550	8417.4 (+14.4)
FTSE 100 13650	8477.4 (+14.5)
FTSE 100 13750	8537.4 (+14.6)
FTSE 100 13850	8597.4 (+14.7)
FTSE 100 13950	8657.4 (+14.8)
FTSE 100 14050	8717.4 (+14.9)
FTSE 100 14150	8777.4 (+15.0)
FTSE 100 14250	8837.4 (+15.1)
FTSE 100 14350	8897.4 (+15.2)
FTSE 100 14450	8957.4 (+15.3)
FTSE 100 14550	9017.4 (+15.4)
FTSE 100 14650	9077.4 (+15.5)
FTSE 100 14750	9137.4 (+15.6)
FTSE 100 14850	9197.4 (+15.7)
FTSE 100 14950	9257.4 (+15.8)
FTSE 100 15050	9317.4 (+15.9)
FTSE 100 15150	9377.4 (+16.0)
FTSE 100 15250	9437.4 (+16.1)
FTSE 100 15350	9497.4 (+16.2)
FTSE 100 15450	9557.4 (+16.3)
FTSE 100 15550	9617.4 (+16.4)
FTSE 100 15650	9677.4 (+16.5)
FTSE 100 15750	9737.4 (+16.6)
FTSE 100 15850	9797.4 (+16.7)
FTSE 100 15950	9857.4 (+16.8)
FTSE 100 16050	9917.4 (+16.9)
FTSE 100 16150	9977.4 (+17.0)
FTSE 100 16250	10037.4 (+17.1)
FTSE 100 16350	10097.4 (+17.2)
FTSE 100 16450	10157.4 (+17.3)
FTSE 100 16550	10217.4 (+17.4)
FTSE 100 16650	10277.4 (+17.5)
FTSE 100 16750	10337.4 (+17.6)
FTSE 100 16850	10397.4 (+17.7)
FTSE 100 16950	10457.4 (+17.8)
FTSE 100 17050	10517.4 (+17.9)
FTSE 100 17150	10577.4 (+18.0)
FTSE 100 17250	10637.4 (+18.1)
FTSE 100 17350	10697.4 (+18.2)
FTSE 100 17450	10757.4 (+18.3)
FTSE 100 17550	10817.4 (+18.4)
FTSE 100 17650	10877.4 (+18.5)
FTSE 100 17750	10937.4 (+18.6)
FTSE 100 17850	10997.4 (+18.7)
FTSE 100 17950	11057.4 (+18.8)
FTSE 100 18050	11117.4 (+18.9)
FTSE 100 18150	11177.4 (+19.0)
FTSE 100 18250	11237.4 (+19.1)
FTSE 100 18350	11297.4 (+19.2)
FTSE 100 18450	11357.4 (+19.3)
FTSE 100 18550	11417.4 (+19.4)
FTSE 100 18650	11477.4 (+19.5)
FTSE 100 18750	11537.4 (+19.6)
FTSE 100 18850	11597.4 (+19.7)
FTSE 100 18950	11657.4 (+19.8)
FTSE 100 19050	11717.4 (+19.9)
FTSE 100 19150	11777.4 (+20.0)
FTSE 100 19250	11837.4 (+20.1)
FTSE 100 19350	11897.4

THE TIMES
CITY DIARYNo fairy tale
as writ flies

CHILDREN: children. Andersen Consulting has issued a writ against Andersen Management Consultants, a smaller London rival, which someone seems to think might be mistaken for the mighty Andersen itself. No connection, of course — but Andersen wants blood. It is demanding a change of name, and wants its cut of any revenue lost as a result of these dastardly tactics. Excessive? Andersen (with an 'o') certainly thinks so. It says it has been using the name for the past 10 years without any problems. Joe Goumal, the founder, says: "I think it's a bit pushing credibility to the far edge to say we're passing ourselves off as Andersen."

Boring? Not us

DO CIVIL engineers have a sense of humour? Yellow Pages is to remove the classification "Boring" along with its reference "See Civil Engineers" from all directories in response to a request by the Institution of Civil Engineers. Apparently, sensitive souls there failed to see the funny side of the directory's reference to ground engineering.

Life and art

SELLING life insurance and comedy make for strange bedfellows, but then Peter Rosengard, Abbey Life's top salesman is no stranger to either. As co-founder of the Comedy Store in Leicester Square, he was influential in making some of the UK's more outrageous comedians famous. Now, he is embarking on another comic mission by writing and producing a TV sitcom based on the antics of six British life insurance salesmen. The series, called *Life*, is in its early stages but Mr Rosengard says he is in talks with several television companies.



Gambling man

NO STOPPING Sol Kerzner, the South African-born casino king, back in the news over a £2 million donation to the African National Congress. Kerzner, 60, has teamed up with Merv Griffin, the American chat show, to take a crack at Atlantic City, New Jersey, a prize which has eluded him for the past 13 years. Griffin's gaming company is merging with a subsidiary of Kerzner's Sun International Hotels, in a stock-for-stock deal valued at \$210 million. The deal needs the approval of state authorities — denied to Kerzner when he tried to go it alone in 1983. He has since had better luck with a resort on Paradise Island in the Bahamas. But Kerzner, Sun's president, says the idea is to develop themed resorts in the heart of Atlantic's famous Boardwalk, the centre of a \$3.7 billion gaming market.

INVESTIGATIONS are under way at the gas regulator's offices to find the origin of the leak of the confidential letter from Ian Byatt, water regulator, to his gas counterpart expressing concern over some of the methodology used in the TransCo pricing controls. But, it emerged yesterday, that the letter could have found its way into the Ofgas library, which has open doors for anyone to browse through non-confidential correspondence.

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANTHONY HARRIS

In the long run, growth may prove to be good for tax cuts

Government deficits are a real problem, raising long-term interest rates and stifling private investment

America is promised "supply side" tax cuts if Bob Dole, the Republican contender, wins the presidential election; and British taxes, as you will have read, are likely to be cut in November because the Treasury enjoyed good privatisation proceeds last month.

Easy gratification? Compare two other news items: in Canberra, Australians have been rioting against spending cuts, while the Italian Left is marching against privatisation. The French unions, meanwhile, are expected to make these protests look lily-livered when the barricade season opens later this month.

What has enraged the French is a programme of spending cuts and job losses planned to reduce the budget deficit: the cuts have been painfully real, but the French budget deficit has remained exactly as big as before. (The US Federal budget, by contrast, is well on its way to balance — a highly significant difference, as we will see.)

Clearly, then, there is more to this tax-and-borrow question than meets the eye. If there were not, indeed, why has tax cutting been out of fashion internationally ever since President Bush ate his promises and started to address the US deficit?

The truth is that government deficits are a real problem, raising long-term interest rates and stifling private investment; they also breach the Maastricht convergence criteria. "Get your house in order" as central bankers — especially Germans — like to advise. But, in real life, cutting deficits is not a such simple matter.

Try lower taxes, said President Reagan paradoxically. Tax cuts will so enliven the economy that revenue will rise, not fall. It didn't work: the economy grew, but the deficit exploded. Perhaps, indeed, the formula was never intended to work. In an interview after retirement, he claimed that the deficit would prove his most enduring monument: it would put a brake on federal spending for decades to come. He had, in effect, killed tax-and-spend liberalism just as he killed Soviet Communism, by spending it into the ground.

It is ironic that Alzheimer's disease will prevent Mr Reagan from enjoying the spectacle of Mr Dole trying to revive the policy that he denounced at the time: but it was at first based on a fashionable theory, Arthur Laffer, an economic journalist, propounded the Laffer Curve, which, he claimed, proved that tax revenues would rise as rates were cut. This is not pure nonsense: there is clearly some point at which the disincentive effect of punitive tax rates will stifle the promised revenues. But where? Laffer didn't say.

A mathematical economist at Birkbeck College did produce an estimate some 20 years ago. Although this was meant as a joke, the maths were serious, and the conclusion — that the point of no return was at a tax rate of 47 per cent — may help to explain why cuts in higher rates have indeed produced Laffer returns (and why Tony Blair will be cautious in raising them again). But nobody is likely to claim again that tax cuts are a painless road to balanced budgets.

The case for a UK cut in November looks more straightforward: higher revenue now, less needed in future. Wrong again: indeed, this Good Housekeeping approach, or the Law of Thatcher's Handbag, is more insidiously wrong than Laffer. The Curve looks like nonsense, but contains some truth. The handbag theorem — cash in, cash out looks like common sense, but



Australians rioted in Canberra against harsh spending cuts imposed by the coalition Government

is, in fact, a compound of errors. It overlooks half of the budget — the consequences of actions supposed to "save": it makes no distinction between income and capital; and it is a formula for destabilising the economy, stimulating it when revenues are strong, deflating it when they are weak. So, for a saving clause, are the rules of the Maastricht treaty.

First, consequences: Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, knows only too well by now that there are two sides to the budget. He has made massive cuts in subsidies and defence and welfare spending; but these actions have so depressed the economy that the "savings" have vanished in social spending and weak revenue. The British disinflation has not been so dramatic — no riots yet; but our repeated failure to meet the deficit forecasts published with the Budget tell the same basic story. Welfare cuts have restrained economic growth. Receipts from privatisation have tended to vanish, as the Treasury no longer receives the profits of the enterprises sold off, but does have to support the workers sacked or retired early in such numbers. In spite of last month's government surplus, the City still expects a borrowing disappointment in November.

And what about the family silver, as Harold MacMillan called it? Under ordinary company accounting rules, privatisation should be treated not as

extraordinary revenue but as a demerger. (In national accounts terms, privatisation reduces the borrowing requirement, but not the public sector financial deficit.) The proceeds should therefore be spent not on tax cuts, but on debt reduction, so shrinking both sides of the national balance sheet.

This is sound reasoning when applied to profitable assets; but it is not so easy to generalise, as Gordon Brown has sought to do in his Golden Rule: borrowing for revenue spending bad, borrowing for investment good. The difficulty is to define "investment" under existing Budget conventions, it means anything that lasts a long time. Borrow to finance roads? No problem. They should help economic and revenue growth. Schools? Virtuous, but the payoff, if any, is long term. Tanks and warships? These actually tend to make future budget problems worse, for they demand trained crews and expensive spares.

Mr Brown's fallback position is much more sophisticated: that budget balances should aim, through the cycle, to hold the national debt constant as a proportion of national income. This is already a standard IMF test of prudence; and while many European governments are struggling to cut bloated debt, the British national debt is already well within the Maastricht

limits. So who could possibly object to the Brown formula? Only, perhaps, the officials told to project the cyclically-corrected deficit, and then to explain to the Treasury Committee a year later why they got it wrong.

That could prove a blessing in disguise, though, because it would make the officials try harder. Ever since Keynesian demand management went out of fashion, officials have got worse and worse at forecasting the business cycle. Our own Treasury completely missed the 1990 recession, while OECD growth projections remained stuck at 3 per cent for several years. This cycle-blindness is a major reason for Europe's present woes: the effort, especially in Germany and France, to balance budgets by deflating weak economies. In their effort to fulfil the Maastricht timetable they have, in effect, been stunned by Mrs Thatcher's fiscal handbag: which ought to give her some ironic satisfaction.

Are there, then, no golden rules for budget-making? Certainly none that are fool-proof. Not even riots mean that policy must be wrong: they are sometimes the price to be paid for correcting past errors, notably the unsustainable pension and welfare commitments common in the EU.

But obstinate recession and unemployment do look like evidence for the prosecution, since the US has managed to escape both for several years. This does not necessarily prove brilliance: more, a perverse kind of luck. The fact that both the federal Government and the commercial banking system got into deep financial trouble at the same time dictated a policy mix that has worked like magic: higher taxes and much lower interest rates.

The result could be called a supply-side tax increase (not an election-winning slogan). The combination of a shrinking deficit (now down to half the Maastricht level) to reassure bond investors and cheap stock market capital has sustained what may prove to be as much as a decade of steady, investment-led growth. Revenues are buoyant and spending, thanks to low unemployment, restrained.

Barring inflationary accidents, the next American president may even be able to turn the slogans upside down and prove not that tax cuts are good for growth, but that growth, in the long run, is good for tax cuts.



Bob Dole is trying to revive a Reagan policy he once denounced

BUSINESS LETTERS

Environmental protection should be the first principle of energy policy

From the Executive Director, The British Wind Energy Association.

Sir, It was heartening to see that the discussion about energy (Christine Buckley, July 24) covered at least to a degree the environmental issues, for, of all industrial activities, energy production is probably that which affects the environment most. There is therefore an extremely strong case for environmental protection being the first principle of energy policy, with the question of price following.

Tim Eggar, the former Energy Minister, is quoted as "indicating that further support of the renewables, such as wind, wave and solar power, may not be guaranteed once they have proceeded sufficiently down the development path." While present govern-

ment policy for the renewables appears to be centred on getting the price to converge towards pool price under the artificial conditions of the Non-Fossil Fuel Obligation, it is not yet clear whether the judgement to continue support after the last scheduled round of contracts in 1998 will be environmental.

If not, does this mean that the Government is willing to accept the theoretical risk that the winners in the liberalised electricity market might be polluting generators?

Yours faithfully
HUGH BABINGTON SMITH,
Executive Director,
The British Wind Energy Association,
Regent House,
89 Kingsway,
WC2B 6EX.

Salutary lessons for the Old Lady

From Ms Marjorie Lishman
Sir, Well, I'll bet the Bank of England is pretty shaken up with all those incisive "theses" in the Arthur Andersen Review of Supervision and Surveillance Report.

It must take courage from the world's most expensive consultants to come up with such radical recommendations as maintaining the Bank's supervisory style (honed in the management of a stream of debacles such as BCCI and Barings), upgrading the supervisory and IT skills of supervisory staff — and even the recruitment of a few souls with specialist knowledge or skills.

Surely such rampant innovation will leave the Old Lady's knickers in a positive twist. Yours faithfully,
MARJORIE LISHMAN,
9 Elwell Way,
Beckenham, Kent.

Settlement of pension age needs to give equal treatment to men

From Mr David Lindsay
Sir, More urgent than linking the state pension to average earnings, as advocated by Maureen Colquhoun (Business Letters August 8) is, surely, a settlement of the pension age issue in a manner that will, at the same time, give men the equal treatment that has for too long been denied them, and, at last, allow the pension to commence when earnings finally cease — not years after, as now for so many.

The adoption of 60 as the common qualifying age for the basic state pension would still leave the UK paying less than 5 per cent of GDP for it — one of the lowest in the European Union — and any additional cost to the National Insurance fund, after taking account of savings in other social security benefits (such as for unem-

ployment and incapacity), could be more than covered by, for example, abolishing the anomalous upper earnings limit for NI contributions (a fair quid pro quo for the progressive tax deductions higher earners enjoy for private pension contributions).

Indeed, using 5 per cent of GDP as an overall state pension regulator, there would still be room for some pension improvement, eg at higher ages.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID LINDSAY,
(Legal Advisor),
Campaign for Equal State Pension Ages,
36 Orchard Coombe,
Whitchurch Hill, Reading.

Letters to the Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

British Rail on track for full privatisation

The South East franchise is the latest to be sold, Jonathan Prynn reports

A year ago, rail privatisation hung in the balance. A succession of highly damaging leaks, most harmfully on safety, severely undermined City and public confidence in the sell-off and Labour was poised to move in for the kill. But the Government's nerve held, Labour became bogged down in internal disputes over its "renaissance" policy and 12 months on, the completion of the BR demolition job is in sight.

Yesterday's sale of the South East franchise means that more than half of passenger services as measured by fares revenue are now in private hands, a landmark that was originally due to be reached by April. However, even four months late is far better than most of the doom mongers were predicting as recently as Christmas and the pace of privatisation of the remaining franchises continues to accelerate.

Critics argue that Roger Salmon, the franchise director, has concentrated on the "easy half" of British Rail, modernised, prestige lines such as East Coast, or affluent London commuter belt services. The low glamour and highly subsidised rural routes of the North and West and the major urban networks of the Midlands and northern conurbations remain to be sold.

However, the obvious hunger for franchises among the main groups jockeying for position in the post-privatisation world means that no more than a tiny handful of lines will remain in public hands by the election.

Already, the outline shape of the private passenger railway is beginning to emerge. There will be half a dozen main players, including Stagecoach, unless it is forced out of future bidding because of its acquisition of Porterbrook; National Express, CGEA, the French transport and waste group that was awarded South East, Sea Containers, and possibly one of the other large bus companies. There will also be a scattering of management buyout teams.

What will take longer to emerge is the benefits, if any, these latter day successors of the Big Four of the pre-nationalisation era will

bring to passengers. Most of the the tangible gains have been pretty marginal — a free cup of tea here, an extra bus link there — surely not the best that the private sector has to offer. Most disappointing, and alarming, has been the failure to pension off dilapidated slam door stock.

More encouraging was the announcement last week by Christopher Garnett, the chief executive of Sea Containers, that fares between London and Edinburgh were being cut to £19 to take on the domestic air carriers. It is this sort of aggressive tilt at the competition that British Rail never dared try.

In the longer term, the greatest test of privatisation will come with the first big economic downturn. Already, the rail industry grapevine is buzzing with rumours about successful bidders returning cap in hand to Mr Salmon, asking, like corporate Oliver Twists, for more subsidy. While this almost certainly has not happened yet, there is little doubt that Mr Salmon, has driven highly demanding financial deals with bidders. With the hot breath of the Treasury "no" men warming the back of his neck at every negotiation meeting, Mr Salmon has had little room for generosity. However, there seems little chance of wholesale cuts in services, for all the early fears. If one of the successful bidders goes belly up there will always be ruthless corporate predators such as Stagecoach's Brian Souter around to pick up their franchises.

Labour, meanwhile, has virtually thrown in the towel, appointing Andrew Smith, a hard man of the Treasury team, to calm things down on the transport portfolio after the excitement of Clare Short's brief incumbency. Rail privatisation, the "poll tax on wheels" that would bring down John Major is now effectively a done deal. In due course, John Welsby, the last ever chairman of British Rail, will collect his kingdom for not rocking the boat and one day, who knows, we will see Bob Horton, the chairman of Railtrack, in the House of Lords. Assuming there is one, that is.

‘The ‘poll tax on wheels’ is now effectively a done deal’

CHESHIRE BUILDING SOCIETY

6-MONTH'S GROUP RESULTS (UNAUDITED)

	6 months to 30th June 1996 £'000s	6 months to 30th June 1995 £'000s
Net Interest Receivable	15,588	12,938
Other Income and Charges	4,344	3,173
Total Income	19,932	16,111
Administrative Expenses	8,198	7,256
Operating Profit before Provisions	11,734	8,855
Provisions for Loans, Advances and Guarantees	1,280	1,750
Profit on Ordinary Activities	10,454	7,105
Tax on Profit on Ordinary Activities	3,450	2,344
Profit for the Half Year	7,004	4,761
Gross Capital	121,887	109,831
Total Assets (£m)	1,558.3 m	1,508.2 m

The Group results as above are unaudited

- Asset growth for the half year of 3.3%
- Strong gross capital position of 8.7%
- Mortgage losses reduced by 27%

Paul Hughes, Chief Executive commented:

"The results reflect a strong half year's performance. The first six months' level of profitability has however, been exceptional but is unlikely to be sustainable in the second half of the year following adjustments to the interest rate margin arising from both competitive product offers and the Society's mutual stance. It is particularly pleasing to see mortgage losses reduce significantly, a trend which is also reflected in our level of mortgage arrears."

The strong capital position and relatively low management expense ratio will enable the Society to continue to compete successfully."



Cheshire Building Society,
Castle Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 6AE

Bad debt fall helps lift bank profits

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE
IN SYDNEY

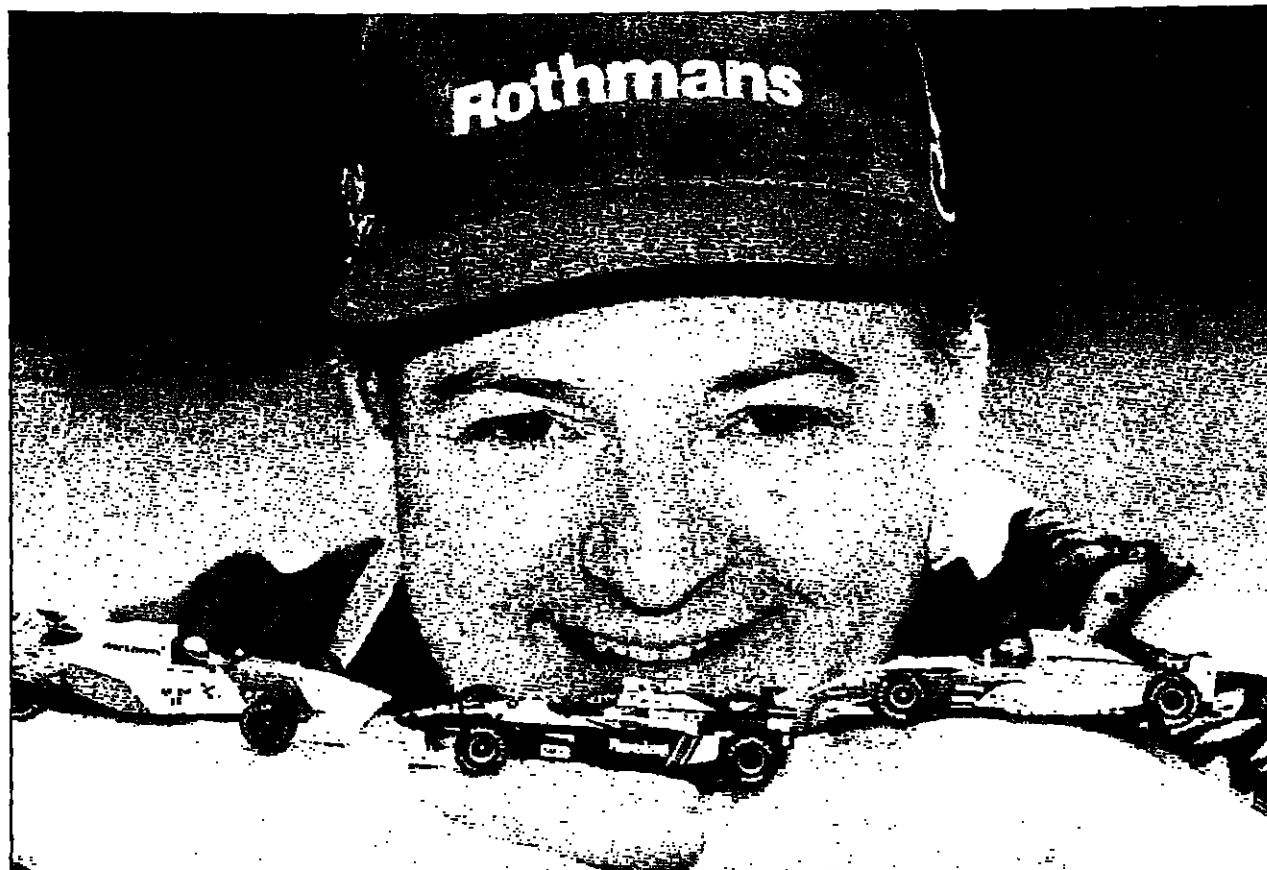
THE Commonwealth Bank, Australia's biggest retail bank, achieved a 14 per cent rise in net profits to A\$1.12 billion (£560 million) for the year to June 1996. The profits, the first to be reported since the Australian Government sold its remaining 50.4 per cent stake last month in the country's biggest share offer, were helped by a sharp fall in bad debts and an improvement in the bank's cost to income ratio.

The new partly paid shares which made their debut last month at \$6, rose 31 cents to A\$7.23 in heavy trading while existing shares also rose 31 cents to A\$11.35.

David Murray, managing director, said the result was "credible" but warned that profits for the year had been held back by a reduction in home lending margins and a decline in the capacity to recover costs for retail transaction services. He also warned that the bank faced continuing earnings pressure, which meant underlying earnings for the current year would be flat, before the impact of a A\$1 billion share buyback which formed part of the Government's sale of its stake.

He said: "We see three factors affecting the outlook for Australian banks: the operating environment has deteriorated; there has been an uplift in trouble-some loans in the fourth quarter, and costs." Total assets grew 6 per cent to A\$109 billion.

The share offer, which together with the share buyback repaid some A\$5.2 billion for the Australian Government, was more than two and a half times oversubscribed, with particularly strong demand from overseas institutions who ended with around 20 per cent of the bank. Under the two-tranche offer — the first of its kind attempted in Australia — investors paid a first fixed instalment of A\$6 with a second instalment of A\$4.45 to be paid by November 1997.



Tony Pickup, managing director of F1 Retail Holdings, is bringing his two motor racing merchandising stores to the Ofex next month in an offer for subscription to raise £450,000. A total of 1.5 million shares are being placed at 30p each, giving the four-month-old company a £945,000 capitalisation and valuing Mr Pickup's stake at £268,000.

Deutsche Telekom woos wary small investors

FROM A CORRESPONDENT
IN FRANKFURT

DEUTSCHE TELEKOM, the German telecoms conglomerate, yesterday outlined its programme of cheaper shares for private investors. The move is aimed at luring sceptical Germans into buying shares when the state-owned company is privatised in November.

Telekom has come up with a variety of carrots to dangle before traditionally equity-averse German investors. There will be price reductions

for private investors and loyalty shares for those who hold their shares for three years.

The price reductions and the loyalty shares would be available for the first 300 shares purchased per investor. The company said the prospectus relating to the share issue would be available in October.

The sell-off will be Germany's biggest privatisation and one of Europe's largest public offerings. When it is fully sold off, Telekom is expected to account for 4 per cent of the total value of the Dax index of

German shares. Telekom expects to gain about DM15 billion from the listing.

The goodwill of private investors is considered essential if the issue is to be a success as the sell-off will require increased levels of liquidity.

Nicole Cousins, telecoms analyst with Bank Julius Baer in Frankfurt, said: "Small shareholder consciousness levels are very low in Germany, but Deutsche Telekom seems to be making all the right moves to raise them." Would-be investors

who are members of AIF, the share information forum, would receive preferential treatment when the shares were issued, Telekom said.

Telekom will start a marketing campaign today aimed at attracting more members for the AIF, which has had 1.5 million inquiries from investors interested in joining. New members must register by the beginning of October.

The share's price range and the price reduction for small investors will be made known in the second half of October. German banks are putting their weight behind the sell-off by offering attractive savings plans and special provisions to would-be share buyers.

Joachim Kroske, Telekom's chief financial officer, said private investors would be allowed to buy a maximum of 300 shares at a special reduced rate and could invest up to DM10,000 in Telekom shares.

Analysts said that implied that the shares could be offered to individual investors at DM33 each.

Young complain about low pay

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE THAN a third of 18 to 24-year-olds earn less than £100 a week, while two in five are showing a growing apathy about politics, according to figures from the TUC.

Half of those questioned by MORI and NOP for the TUC report, published today, said that they were treated unfairly at work, with the most common complaints being low pay and poor management.

Two in five said they planned to vote in the next general election, a fall of about 10 per cent from the 50 per cent estimated turnout of 18 to 24-year-olds at the last general election.

Seven out of ten questioned in the survey, which covered 2,500 young people, said that they felt politicians did not understand what working life was really like.

Four in ten said that they thought the quality of life for their age group would worsen over the next year, compared with one in ten who believed it would improve.

The TUC said that the report, which found three in five young people thought unions were essential to protect workers' interests, countered the argument that "Major's children" reject collective values and organisation.

Young people are to become an increased target for union efforts after the study also revealed that 86 per cent felt ill-informed about union matters.

The TUC study comes as Labour research shows that nearly one in five households of working age has no adult in work.

Scrutiny of government figures conducted for Ian McCartney, chief employment spokesman, reveals that 18 per cent of non-pensioner homes had no adults working.

□ TUC analysis shows that 40 leading UK companies have made no plans to set up European works councils on a voluntary basis. Companies have a month left to make voluntary plans, or face the imposition of a standard European model. If they do nothing within six months of that imposition date those companies could face legal penalties in other European countries where they also operate.

Large share sales at Universal Salvage

CLIFF BASSETT, chairman of Universal Salvage, has raised £2.67 million through the disposal of one million shares in the company, which manages the disposal of vehicle write-offs. He retains a 29.2 per cent shareholding. The shares were sold at 267p, compared with a placing price of 149p when the company obtained a stock market listing in September 1995. Stewart Bassett and Jacqui Sutton, two other substantial shareholders, have raised £1.6 million and £1.34 million respectively through the disposal of shares. Stewart Bassett retains an interest of 8.9 per cent and Ms Sutton holds 9.3 per cent. The shares were unchanged at 268p yesterday.

The company said the share sales were made at the request of Charterhouse Tilney, the company's stockbrokers, in order to satisfy market demand for the shares. The three investors remain subject to the orderly market restrictions imposed at the time of the flotation of the company.

Inspec plan approved

INSPEC, the speciality chemicals group that is buying Shell's fine chemicals outfit, yesterday obtained shareholder approval for its zero-risk staff share option scheme, but with the compromises detailed in *The Times* yesterday. In a thinly attended extraordinary meeting, no questions were raised about the scheme, which allows staff to subscribe for up to £8 million of shares, but only pay for them if the market price rises above 206.6p. Its shares held at 201p yesterday.

Pemberstone payout

PEMBERSTONE, which specialises in buying, managing and subsequently selling Business Expansion Scheme (BES) assured tenancy companies, is paying an interim dividend of 1p a share after reporting pre-tax profits of £1.1 million for the half-year to June 30. After a restructuring, there is no direct comparison for the first half of the previous year. Profits were £373,000 for the 18 months to December 31. Pemberstone has bought seven BES companies since its September 1995 float.

Reverse for Zergo

ZERGO, the software security company whose shares trade on the Alternative Investment Market, incurred losses of £214,693 before tax in the year to the end of April, compared with profits of £12,769 in the previous year. The loss was struck after an exceptional charge of £247,000 against a property writedown. There was a second-half profit of £12,000, compared with first-half losses of £479,000. Zergo shares rose 10p to 230p. There is no dividend.

Bank group advances

CS HOLDING, Switzerland's second biggest banking group, reported a 26 per cent rise in net profits to SF941 million (£492.6 million) in the first six months of 1996. CS, parent of Credit Suisse and of CS First Boston, the US investment banking group, earned SF749 million in the first half of the previous year. CS Holding said restructuring measures, announced in July, were expected to lead to a sustained improvement in the group's performance in future years.

Jarvis starts expansion

JARVIS HOTELS has begun its promised expansion with the £8.6 million purchase of the former Scandic Crown Hotel at Warwick. The company earmarked £60 million for acquisitions from £13 million raised when Jarvis floated in June. The hotel, being acquired from Scandic Hotels Group, has 151 bedrooms, conference facilities and a health and leisure club. Jarvis, which owns 63 mid-market hotels, said it had seen 15 per cent growth in room yields since April.

BNFL wins \$600m US order

BNFL, the UK nuclear fuels company, has won a \$600 million contract to help to clean up one of the largest nuclear sites in America (Martin Barrow writes).

BNFL Inc, a US subsidiary, is part of a consortium of companies that has been awarded a \$6 billion contract by the US Department of

Energy to clean up the massive Savannah River nuclear site in South Carolina. The consortium includes Westinghouse, Bechtel and Babcock & Wilcox.

The consortium will plan and integrate solid waste recycling, treatment, storage and disposal. BNFL Inc will also provide technical support and

personnel to Westinghouse in nuclear operations.

More than 19,000 people are employed on the site, which was built in the early 1950s as part of the US arms programme.

BNFL Inc has won business worth almost \$1 billion since it was formed six years ago.

ACCOUNTANCY

Panic attack with Customs bias

Proposals to impose limits on VAT refunds unbalance the rights of taxpayers, says Richard Watson



Richard Watson says the new VAT proposals are unfair

When I last wrote in these columns about the "missing" VAT revenue, I predicted that one of the actions the Government might take to stem the outflow would be to impose limits on refund claims. It gives me no pleasure to have been proved right, and so quickly.

From July 18, any claim for a refund of tax resulting from an error is limited to three years from the date of the claim. This means that even businesses that have been specifically misdirected by Customs & Excise to adopt a certain tax treatment will only be able to recover overpaid tax for the last three years. The interest they are able to claim on undeclared tax will also be limited to three years. If legal proceedings stretch over three years, the appellant will not recover all the tax paid in that period, even if he wins.

It is clear why the Government has done this. Extremely large sums of revenue collected over many years were being repaid as a result of mistakes by taxpayers and by Customs. However, this does not make their action right, not least because they have retained the power for Customs to assess for a period of up to six years.

The refund provisions do not work as the Government would like, partly because they have been badly drafted. Moreover, the courts have interpreted the concept of "unjust enrichment", which was supposed to be Customs' defence against paying out too much, in such a way as to render it a broken reed.

As a result, the new legislation, which has just been published in draft, not only imposes the three-year limit, but also effectively redefines "unjust enrichment". Inevitably, the redefinition is much more favourable to Customs and will of course apply to all claims in the future.

The timing of this measure raises a separate issue. The Paymaster General announced in Parliament that this policy was going to be implemented with immediate effect, and Parliament would not have an opportunity to debate it until the Finance Bill debates of next year. Until then, Customs will operate this policy under their powers of "care and management".

Although it is true that the VAT Act does give them powers of care and management of the tax, this does not, in my mind, give them carte blanche to override what is very clear

law. Section 80 of the VAT Act gives an absolute right to the taxpayer to secure a refund of overpaid tax in certain circumstances. That right is now being taken away for periods over three years, not by a further decision of Parliament, but by administrative fiat.

It is simply not good enough to say that this is a question of care and management. If care and management can extend to these proposals it is possible for Customs to alter other aspects of the tax because they don't like the results emerging from the courts.

To deny the right of refund on the basis of a subsequent change in legislation is also, I believe, wrong because it does

not address the very real issue that underlies the provision of a refund mechanism in the first place. People make mistakes in VAT. When those mistakes are discovered, they should be put right whether they favour the Revenue or are against the Revenue.

Currently, Customs can put right mistakes against them over a six-year period. The law says that they can put right mistakes in their favour over an unlimited period. The justification for that imbalance is that Customs are in control: they decide when to visit and check a taxpayer's accounts.

The new proposals significantly unbalance the rights of the taxpayer and the taxing authorities in the opposite direction. As a result they make VAT a much more unfair tax. If there is to be a time restriction on refund claims, six years would seem to be the only possible choice. However, there are other options, which I hope to discuss in a subsequent article.

I hope that the discussions that Customs will be holding with the profession and business generally will convince them, and the Government, that this is a panic measure, which should be put back into the cupboard while they re-examine the real issue: how to establish equity between the taxpayer and the tax authorities when genuine mistakes are made by both parties.

The author is VAT partner at Price Waterhouse

You can't have your teacake and VAT it

VAT continues to be the most extraordinary of taxes. When it was introduced, the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Anthony Barber, said we would have "the simplest VAT in Europe". It is a remark that has come to haunt the Treasury. VAT, they thought, would be simple. After all it is a simple percentage tax and reimbursement system. To someone with no guile at all, VAT would seem to be a book entry and little more.

But the current Chancellor thinks otherwise. Not only was a supposed shortfall of revenue through VAT avoidance fingered earlier this year as the reason why the nation's finances were in a mess, but, since then, increasingly clumsy efforts to cut back on people obtaining refunds and repayments of VAT have been made.

At the same time, VAT is understood by few. And that is probably why the Chancellor blamed VAT shortfalls. Most people have no understanding of VAT, and, given the complexity of the tax, they should probably keep it that way. But it does make it easy for the Government to say that something is all the fault of mischievous VAT planning. It knows that most people have no way of judging whether this is true or not. For the sheer complexity of the tax we need look no further than that wonderful compendium of all that is wild and wacky in the VAT world, *Tolley's VAT Cases 1996* (published by Tolleys at £64.50) is the business.

It is a thousand pages of the strainingly arcane nonsense that has to be argued over by those who interpret and rule on VAT decisions. And through it you can glimpse the detail of domestic and business life in all its glory. There are arguments over beach huts, chippies, fishbowl, bingo, doughnuts, cricket scorecards and even the Big Dipper on Blackpool beach.

This year's edition brings some notable new quirks to a wider audience. Take Customs and Excise's interest in Girl Guide uniforms. Like most VAT disputes, it stems from borderline decisions. Or, in this case, the point where clothes move from the zero-rated realm of children's wear to that of grown-ups, where VAT is payable. Girl Guides' sweaters were deemed to be VATable if the waist measurement was 32 inches or upwards. But then the commissioners took their tape measures out and measured a waist crutch-waist measurement. At 23 inches this

was deemed not suitable for adults and the VAT burden was lifted. No one had told them the current trend in fashion was for waifs who fit such garments. Food also provides some notably daft decisions. What Customs classifies as beverages are standard-rated. But tea, like food, is zero-rated. What, in that case, of iced tea? Given the chance, a government will always impose a tax rather than abolish it. Iced tea is standard-rated.

But there are some decisions that do contain an inkling of common sense. Take another case from the battleground of adult/children clothing. Customs argued that a range of children's riding hats were made in sizes that could fit adults and therefore should bear VAT. Nonsense, said the tribunal. The hats had cartoon characters on them and bore the logo "Kids Own". Grown-ups wearing them would be exposed to "ridicule or contempt". The case was won.

All this lengthy arguing over seemingly arcane detail now obscures the real issue. And that is that the Government has suddenly woken up to the importance of one of its taxes. You get the impression that policymakers had always rather ignored VAT, probably because they too had no real idea of its consequences.

Suddenly the issues are threefold. There is the development of anti-avoidance measures, the enhancement of collection powers and efficiency and, most recently, the arbitrary restriction of any rebates that people could claim. It was the rebates that carried the most potential to alarm the Chancellor. VAT experts toss out little examples with far-reaching consequences. "Never forget," one said to me recently, "that the Marks & Spencer teacake case cost the Exchequer around £360 million."

And that sums up the issue. Something that appears to be but a detail can cost the tax collectors a large amount of revenue. So it is no wonder that the Government is trying to restrict rebates. And no wonder that bodies such as the Scots ICA accuse them of breaking everything from *Citizen's Charters* to European law. And no wonder that delegations from the Big Six firms, such as the one led last week by Peter Jenkins, of Ernst & Young, are trying to urge a rethink. It is virtually impossible, politically, to raise VAT. The only way the tax take can be increased is by raising existing revenues. And that is the only simple thing left about VAT policy.



ROBERT BRUCE

Andersen drafts unity blueprint

SPURNING August slumbers, mighty Arthur Andersen, as befits the world's biggest accountancy firm, is in a high state of anticipation.

Worrying about another threat from their fast-growing sister organisation, Andersen Consulting, to break away, a group of partners have been beavering away to produce a structure for what is now known as Andersen World-

wide. Partners expect details in early September. Voting will be three weeks later. Rumour has it that things will not stay the same. Nor will any great splits occur.

Expect Larry Weinbach, Andersen's worldwide chief, to come up with a timely reminder that the Andersen brand is the greatest in the world, and with a new structure that delicately redefines all those businesses

under the Andersen roof without annoying any of them so much that they go elsewhere.

Staying cool

MICHAEL Heseltine should be watching. As the profession awaits a decision by his former Department of Trade on policy on litigation, the Deputy Prime Minister should note reaction to the latest development. Price

Waterhouse has settled its litigation, as administrator of the Maxwell empire, with Coopers & Lybrand. Coopers has stumped up \$68 million. And no one batted an eyelid. Except, presumably, Coopers partners.

Defeat not so sweet

GIVEN the endless controversy over biscuits, cakes and

confectionery in the annals of VAT cases, there was a degree of anticipation when a delegation led by Peter Jenkins, of Ernst & Young, and representing the Big Six firms, met Customs & Excise to warn it over current plans to limit refunds and repayments. When the tea and biscuits came round, would Customs be man enough to offer Jaffa cakes, one of their most notorious defeats? Sadly the answer was no.

— ROBERT BRUCE


John P. 1550

30 UNIT TRUST PRICES

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

THE TIMES



He

SCOR

CINEMA

THEATRE

T

COMEDY

Character

T



■ FILM 1

Mayhem, murder and Arnie: the classic ingredients, incoherently mixed, go into the thriller *Eraser*



■ FILM 2

... but there are welcome signs of humanity in *The Perez Family*, a saga of immigrant life

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ FILM 3

... and a superb Iranian epic, Abbas Kiarostami's *Where is my Friend's House?*, comes to the ICA



■ FILM 4

Meanwhile, there is humour of the blackest variety to spice the murderous content of *The Last Supper*

He shoots, he scores, he bores

CINEMA: Geoff Brown is himself a witness in need of protection after enduring the Schwarzenegger gore-fest that is *Eraser*, but he finds solace in Iranian humanity

The killing machine is back, with a body sculpted in a thousand gyms and a permanent grimace. "I verk alone," Arnold Schwarzenegger snaps. His work in *Eraser* is witness protection. He is a federal marshal, John Kruger by name, although he comes with no background, and no characterisation other than being "the best there is". He is Schwarzenegger. This is a summer blockbuster. What more do we need to know?

Maybe the tally of weapons and corpses. The principal weapon is a gun that fires electro-magnetic impulses, and tracks its victims through brick walls. This hardware was meant for American eyes alone, but a defence corporation plans a shipment abroad to what Schwarzenegger calls "some very nasty people". For the climax he wears two of the ray guns, thrust under the armpits, blasting away in phallic splendour.

But despite the fancy weapons and the conglomerate of action highlights, a perfunctory air hangs over *Eraser*. This is no high-concept affair, no thrill-a-minute ride such as *Mission: Impossible*, but a dishevelled B-movie trying to look far grander than it is. The script shoves ingredients together without attempting to make something organic. A splatter of mayhem, then a pool of sentiment, then a callous remark. A plot that refuses to make even nominal sense, and special effects which in this day and age seem merely ordinary. These are the elements hurled in our faces by director Charles Russell, who showed far more care when directing Jim Carrey in *The Mask*.

Colourful acting on the film's fringes helps the time to pass. James Caan's furrowed brow gets a good workout as Arnie's devious mentor. James Coburn contributes silver-haired class as the boss of the witness protection programme. Vanessa Williams, too, buckles down to work as the defence corporation employee willing to blow the whistle.

But Schwarzenegger sweeps all before him. He slams a head into a fridge door. He pumps characters with bullets. He snarls "You're luggage!" as he aims his firepower at alligators let loose in the Central Park Zoo. Nice man.

For a more humane view of life, audiences may be tempted by *The Perez Family*, a colourful if incoherent saga of love, hope and longing

among Cuban immigrants, based on the novel by Christine Bell. The time is 1980, the year of the Mariel boatlift, when, for five months, Castro allowed his undesirables to ship out for Florida. Among them is Alfred Molina, as a plantation owner who spent 20 years in jail cossetting memories of Anjelica Huston, his emigrated wife. Another is Marisa Tomei, as Dottie, life force and prostitute.

Eraser
Warner West End, 18, 114 mins
Dishevelled vehicle for Arnold Schwarzenegger

The Perez Family
Plaza, 15, 112 mins
Wayward tale of Cuban immigrants

Where is my Friend's House?
ICA Cinema, 90 mins
Meet Abbas Kiarostami, Iranian director

The Last Supper
Virgin Haymarket, 15, 92 mins
Jet-black comedy becomes stuck in a rut

Original Gangstas
ABC Tottenham Court Road, 18, 90 mins
Refreshing street gang drama

While Huston waits nervously for her husband's return, Molina and Tomei form a bogus family at the immigration compound in the Orange Bowl Stadium. Meanwhile, Huston drifts into a hesitant romance with police officer Chazz Palminteri. Will these Cuban outsiders ever settle down in America? And if so, with whom?

These should be the film's burning questions, but Mira Nair, the Indian director of *Salaam Bombay!* and, less successfully, *Mississippi Masala*, takes them off the boil by shifting so much between styles and tones. Nothing flows. Warm comedy becomes hectic melodrama. In her urge to be the ultimate Cuban spitfire, Tomei shouts too much in a burdensome accent, while Molina and Huston underplay. Nair's sensitivity towards cultural outsiders is obvious, but so is her tendency to dither and drag her heels.

This film is best when it plays pianissimo: Huston nervously

awaiting the returning hero in a house overlaid with security gadgets; Palminteri building their quiet romance through doorstep encounters; these are the moments when *The Perez Family* charms.

But for truly humane cinema this week, there is only one place to go: the ICA. The film is Iranian, and nine years old. Am I putting you off? But, reader, if you do not see *Where is My Friend's House?*, or other films by Abbas Kiarostami, you miss experiencing cinema of breathtaking simplicity and power.

Kiarostami's international reputation has grown steadily, although in Britain audiences know him only for his script for *The White Balloon*. In France his films are repertory staples. He has earned the praise of Kurosawa and Jean-Luc Godard, on the surface an odd pair of talents. But the coupling makes sense. Godard would appreciate Kiarostami's formal interests, his mind-boggling long shots, and his teasing of the boundaries between film and reality. Kurosawa would revel in the films' passionate humanity, and the snatching of poetry from daily lives.

Made in 1987, *Where is My Friend's House?* shares some of the ingredients of *The White Balloon*. A child has a problem, and Kiarostami's patient camera watches a solution being found. A village boy accidentally takes home his classmate's exercise book. To prevent retribution from the teacher, he needs to return the book. But where is his friend's house? Travelling up the zig-zag path to the next village, he follows a trail of false leads in the gathering dark.

Some people took against the little prima donna of *The White Balloon*, desperate to buy a pretty goldfish. But no one should have problems with this grave little hero in his rust-brown sweater, blue jeans and freckles. Kiarostami films his moral quandaries as he films the landscapes of stone houses and scrub: with love, respect and a poet's eye.

Where is My Friend's House? is powerful enough on its own terms. But if you know that almost all the cast lost their lives when the region was devastated by the 1990 earthquake, then the film becomes so much more precious. Kiarostami himself was deeply affected, and has filled two further films with reverberations from the tragedy. In *And Life Goes On*... double-billed with



They think it's all over... but is it? Arnold Schwarzenegger and Vanessa Williams get close in *Eraser*

Friend at the ICA, he movingly dramatises his own efforts to find his young actors among the rubble. *Through the Olive Trees*, due for commercial release here in December, is a film about making *And Life Goes On*...

But no matter how many layers of fiction or reality Kiarostami puts before his audience, the effect of his images is always direct. They have a raw beauty and passion that contemporary cinema needs desperately; especially in a week when Schwarzenegger is blasting people to smithereens.

The death rate is also high in *The Last Supper*, an unusual offering from a new American director, Stacy Title. But these deaths come

with a point attached. Each victim espouses some belief not to the taste of five low graduate students. Racists, homophobes, anti-abortionists, Black Muslims; the net is spread wide. Each victim is done in at a dinner party and reduced to compost, fertilising an impressive crop of tomatoes in the garden.

At first the extreme black humour and the attractive cast of Cameron Diaz, Ron Eldard, Annabeth Gish and company keep the film on its toes. Then, after a while, it stops dancing. Title keeps us imprisoned by talk in the students' house. One dead body follows another; and, although the self-justifying squabbles add variety, the film never breaks free of the plot's straitjacket.

Original Gangstas, minor but agreeable, has several points of interest. The director is Larry Cohen, a slapdash, offbeat talent rightly cherished for romps such as *Q - The Winged Serpent* and *The Private Files of J. Edgar Hoover*. It places its street gang drama in Gary, Indiana, homicide capital of America. It sends the camera on eloquent journeys down disrespected or burnt-out streets. And it rounds up the "blackploitation" stars of the 1970s (Fred Williamson, Jim Brown, Pam Grier), pitching them against the new punk commandos who thrive on drugs and drive-by shootings. Cohen's film is often artless, but it gives a usually dismal genre a very refreshing tweak.

SNAP VERDICT

'Worth a look'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases...

ERASER
Toby White, 22: Entertaining action formula. Arnie shoots terrorists. Arnie saves forlorn female. Arnie utters witty quip. Worth a look... if you like that sort of thing.
David Whipple, 20: The usual Schwarzenegger fare - great action, good effects and a dialogue deficiency.
Marie Darvill, 18: Arnie attempts to show his sensitive side as well as his huge biceps. Lots of explosions and good pacing mean you don't have to think about this film.
Piers Thomas, 22: An action-packed rollercoaster with some good special effects.

THE PEREZ FAMILY
Toby: Utterly charming. A little slow, but with many wonderfully endearing moments. A must-see for the sentimentalist in all of us.
David: A likeable romantic comedy essentially about the conflict between love and loyalty. Good performances all round.
Marie: A sensitive and funny film about how love can grow out of adversity. The wonderful script and the colourful Cuban background mean you come out of the cinema feeling better than when you went in.
Piers: Flipping great! Totally believable melancholy interaction between characters. Alfred Molina and Anjelica Huston are very believable as the divided spouses.

ORIGINAL GANGSTAS
Toby: An original slant on the black urban tragedy, but really badly executed. If you want to see how not to make a movie, watch this.
David: *Original Gangstas* attempts to ask questions and supply answers on the subject of social attitudes towards urban violence. It does neither and turns instead into a pointless bloodfest.
Marie: The basic message is contradictory and, rather than being challenging, the huge death toll just makes *Original Gangstas* disgusting.
Piers: Utterly unconvincing mindless pap! Totally unbelievable characters. Swearing, shooting and hanging in the hood.

COMEDY: Musical pastiche and wide-ranging stand-up storm the Fringe

Characters find an audience

Taking the mickey out of the music business is all the rage in the comedy world. More than one funnyman on the Edinburgh Fringe can be seen impersonating composers, having one flailing stab at their keyboards and - hey presto - composing the soundtrack for *Psycho*. It's a cinch. Pop stars are mimicked, with tongues in cheeks, here there and everywhere. Maybe stand-ups, the so-called rock'n'rollers of the 1990s, have started laughing subtly at themselves.

Meanwhile, classical composers do not escape the japes either. Hans Liberg from Holland (playing at the Pleasance) is a deeply eccentric character in the pack for the more cultured punter. Austerly shorn, like some Buddhist monk, he gives a satirical lecture concerning the history of music. Nipping in, faintly disturbing spats and faintly disturbing spats, between his mini-grand and his absurdly blue-tiled Dutch harpsichord, he pulls random faces from behind intellectual specs.

Meanwhile, he puts his finger mercilessly on Mozart's fave chord-sequence: a climactic pink plunk every time. He dusts during Liszt's long pauses and airs a hitherto unknown tinkle by J.S. Bach: *The Windmills of Your Mind*.

Some jokes fall flat. Perhaps Liberg also slips between two stools: too esoteric for some, too easy for others when demonstrating, for example, the similarity between classical melodies and the catchy tunes of Andrew Lloyd Webber. Spasmodically, however, Liberg is madly inspired.



Latin pop lyrics ("Cantare-o-o", anyone?) transcendently transmute into a castrato aria, surely by Handel.

Character comedy is also strong this year. Some stand-ups, trying to move into theatrical performance, are awkward. The impossibly gangly Ben Moor (also at the Pleasance) has a naturally hilarious body. His neck just carries on all the way down.

Moor is experimenting with the overlap of stand-up and storytelling. At this stage, though, his mock-mystery thriller *Twelve* drags its feet while his persona hovers undecidedly between that of a vaguely film noir-style narrator and a nerdy schoolboy.

Richard Herring, half of television's *Fist of Fun* duo, looks vaguely embarrassed about appearing in his own dull-witted play, *Punk's Not Dead*, about a bunch of twentysomething blokes dressing up like Johnny Rotten and banging on about their puerile adulation of the Sex Pistols. Outrageously slowly written.

Staggeringly entertaining, however, is Al Murray, acting the archetypal job pub landlord (*Pleasance Over The*

Road). We are in with him for a late lock-in. He's yelling, effing, swilling lager, spoiling for a fight and cracking jokes about every foreign nationality he can call to his tiny mind.

It sounds like a nightmare, doesn't it? Actually, Murray's character bursts with energy, enjoying himself enormously, shutting up drunk hecklers with razor-sharp put-downs. He looks like a psychotic bruiser but has a lovely twinkle in his eye. He is fond of this frightful character but also quietly savages his bigotry.

At the Assembly Rooms, Sir

Bernard Chumley (Matt Lucas *in* *incognito*) is also deceptively skilful. This show is superficially shoddy and politically incorrect: all terrible wigs, polyester trousers and sniggers about homos. In fact behind the mayhem, this young performer (supported by two sado sidekicks) is a fine clown, acting his socks off as the spittle-spraying hideous old bore and closet perv, veering convincingly between a mentally deranged tramp and a plummy raconteur.

KATE BASSETT

Hail and farewell

RADIO

Somewhere should write a radio play about the retirement of a depressingly early age of a senior BBC executive. Although the plot is not yet fully formed in my mind, the story could be set around the numerous farewell parties, lunches and dinners that such executives always have to attend. I see the hero as having a strong English name and a strong BBC background. It would be too obvious to cast him as Director-General, or even as one of the leading television lights. No, I think the Controller of a radio network would be my choice.

The reason for setting the play at various retirement bashes is that these occasions are always littered with clichéd cant. By sampling all of the speeches the retiree hears in his honour, the radio listener could only conclude that the departure of this great man is an event so monumental that it will bring the BBC crashing down.

Which raises the question (enter

suspense) of why he is retiring at all. Of course, the play's climactic moment would involve our hero, a thoroughly decent and talented man, standing up to respond to these platitudes and saying what he actually thinks. After all, consider what will have happened to him (told in flashback) since he became Controller ten years before: passed over for managing director of BBC Radio in favour of some upstart from commercial television; made acting MD when the upstart upped and left, only to see the job renamed and handed to a man who

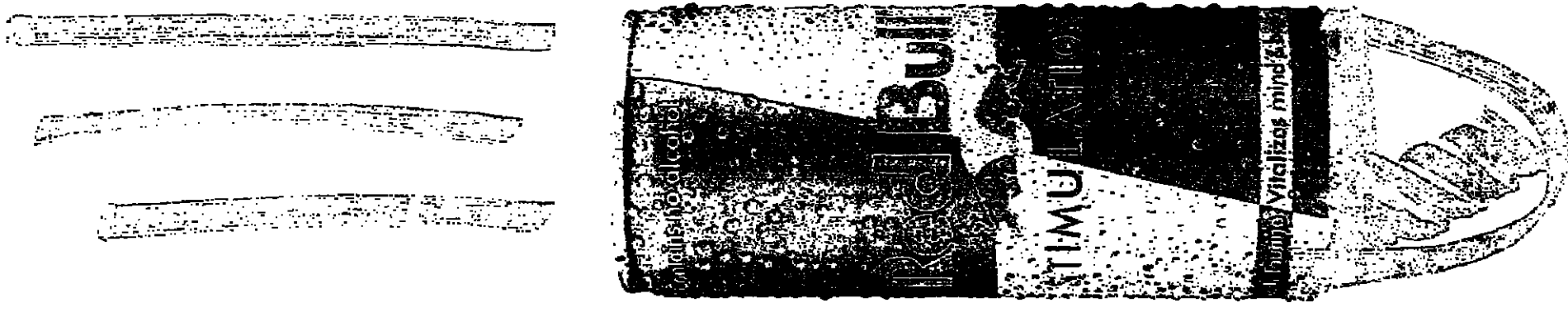
used to be in charge of pop music. It's enough to make you... retire.

Unfortunately for me, life has imitated putative art. The real Controller of Radio 4, whose name will come to me at any minute, is having his back slapped and his glass refilled, prior to retiring next week at the age of 55.

So another great idea bites the dust. A pity, for I was beginning to think this could make a series. If not a soap. Certainly a great crowd scene offers itself, in which all the people who have ever written to him demanding his head for moving *Woman's Hour* or hiring Gerry Anderson now march on Broadcasting House insisting on the indefinite postponement of his retirement.

Yes, somebody should write a radio play about Michael Green. If his successor, James Boyle, is as much like Green as I suspect he is, most of us will be very happy.

PETER BARNARD



CAUTION: DO NOT DRINK WHEN YOU WANT TO SLEEP



CHOICE 1
In Edinburgh,
András Schiff
plays Brahms's
piano concertos

VENUE: Tonight at
the Usher Hall



CHOICE 2
Dinsdale Landen
stars in a
revival of James
Saunders's *Bodies*

VENUE: In preview at
the Orange Tree, Richmond

THE TIMES ARTS



CHOICE 3
At the Proms,
Siegfried Matthäus's
Der Wald has its
British premiere

VENUE: Tonight at
the Albert Hall



NEW VIDEOS
Special effects
bring jungle
beasts crashing
through a small
town in the
diverting *Jumanji*

EDINBURGH

A double helping of Brahms is on the festival menu tonight as András Schiff and the Philharmonie Orchestra perform the composer's two mighty piano concertos. Kurt Sandberg conducts — the Edinburgh Festival debut (Usher Hall, 7.30pm). More piano recitals can be found at the Queen's Hall (11am) where Benjamin Fith and the Edinburgh String Quartet offer a rare opportunity to hear Mozart's Piano Concertos Nos 11, 12 and 13 played in the manner of the salons of 18th century Vienna. Over at the International Conference Centre (7.30pm) John McGuffin's *A Selfie of the Fear* continues its run. The author details his own work, a mix of music and comedy, which takes a satirical look at the media barons and media moguls of the 1990s.

Festival box office (011-225 5756). Choice bars from the Fringe includes a production at St Bride's of *The Merchant of Venice*. Directed by James Tropp, this version sets the action in Italy on the bank of fascism and takes a critical look at the anti-Semitic stereotypes created over centuries (7.45pm, tonight-Sat then Thurs-Sat new weekly). At the Chaplaincy Centre (8pm) D Paul Thomas features in his own play *Benbow* 1945. A critical analysis of Broadway last year, the play gives a compelling and chilling account of the last days of the great theatrical Don Benbow, hung in a conspiracy to murder Hitler. Over at the Queen's Hall (today, tomorrow, 8pm) Rory McGrath & Philip Pope — *Death*

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts
and entertainment
compiled by Mark Hargre

by Country is billed as a "deadly cocktail of the best of comedy and the best of music". McGrath & Pope's *It's All Over* and Pope's *Spitting Image* and *The Fast Show* back their modern, ribald, often bawdy, country songs with great country music. Fringe box office (Inquiries 011-225 5257, tickets 011-225 5139).

LONDON

BBC PROMS 96. German music from different periods is on offer as Claus Peter Felt makes his conducting debut with the BBC Symphony Orchestra in the last of tonight's concerts (7pm). On the programme are works by Wagner, Beethoven and Brahms, and the first hearing in this country of Siegfried Wagner's tempo-dramatic tone poem, *Der Wald*. The evening's second concert (10pm) features a further UK premiere: Ludwig van Beethoven's *Missa* and Stravinsky's *The Nightingale* under Daniel Harding with Peter Donohoe, piano, performing Robert Volz's new Piano Concerto — a BBC commission. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (011-589 8219).

BODIES Dinsdale Landen reprises the role of Mervyn in a revival of James

Saunders's wife-swapping drama, originally produced here and in the West End in 1977. Dinsdale Landen directs. Orange Tree, Clarendon St, Richmond (0181-840 3633). Preview tonight, 7.45pm. Opens tomorrow, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat. Thurs (Aug 29, Sep 5 and 12), 2.30pm; Sat (from Aug 31), 4pm. Until October 5.

THE HEIDI CHRONICLES Two years after the success here of *The Stearns Rosenzweig* comes Wendy Wasserstein's Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy play, showing what happens to Heidi (Susan Sarandon) on her way from high school in 1965 to her luxury apartment in 1992. David Taylor directs. Greenwich, Clarendon St, Richmond (0181-858 7755). Preview tonight, 7.45pm. Opens Aug 29, then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat. Sat, 2.30pm. Until October 5.

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum, 20th-century Chinese Painting (011-636 1556). Courtyard, The Four Seasons (011-423 2528). Llewellyn Alexander: Not the Royal Academy 1996 (011-620 1322). Llewellyn Alexander: Victor Burgin, David Graham, Rodney Graham, John Hilliard (011-724 2738).

Museum of London: Whitman's Glass the Art of James Powell & Sons of London (011-600 0607). Museum of the Moving Image: Images in the Future (011-714 815 1359). National Gallery: Degenerate Impressionism (011-747 2889).

Royal Academy: Roger de Grey (011-438 7438).

THE ASPIRIN PAPERS Michael Redgrave's slightly old-fashioned version of the Henry James tale of Henry's childhood.

BY JESSE Delightful musical, created by Alan Ayckbourn and Andrew Lloyd Webber, based on the Woodhouse heroes.

DIAL "M" FOR MURDER Peter Dinklage and Catherine Raboin in Frederick Forsyth's classic suspense thriller, dating from the days before the all-gene phone number.

THE FANTASTICS New York's long-running equivalent to The Muppet Show. Pretty but vacuous account of young love. Some songs.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Peter Hall's acclaimed Haymarket production, with Diane Fitch, David Rintoul, Jacky Heston, Kim Thomson, Gobby Walters and John McCullum.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Dillane, a powerful production, with David Pegg as the all-knowing Inspector, and

Edward Peel and Estelle Kohler as the pillars of society.

THE LIGHTS Howard Korder's drama of a journey through the New York experience. Ends with the cast attacking the theatre, literally, as all the lights of the interior will be about 100ft from the stage.

A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC Elegant and sexy production by Simon Dumas, of Jonathan's Swedish chamber, of Jonathan's Swedish chamber, of Jonathan's Swedish chamber.

LONG RUNNERS

BLOOD BROTHERS Phoenix (011-388 1733). **SI** Cade New London (011-405 0072).

THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS (19) Pleasant romantic comedy about modern identity, with Michael Garfield, John Thurnham and Ben Chaplin. Directed, Michael Lehmann.

THE SECRET OF ROAM IRISH (PG) Wonderful Celtic tale with a realistic slant. Based on legend by writer-director John Hayes.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS (19) Pleasant romantic comedy about modern identity, with Michael Garfield, John Thurnham and Ben Chaplin. Directed, Michael Lehmann.

THE SECRET OF ROAM IRISH (PG) Wonderful Celtic tale with a realistic slant. Based on legend by writer-director John Hayes.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS (19) Pleasant romantic comedy about modern identity, with Michael Garfield, John Thurnham and Ben Chaplin. Directed, Michael Lehmann.

THE SECRET OF ROAM IRISH (PG) Wonderful Celtic tale with a realistic slant. Based on legend by writer-director John Hayes.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS (19) Pleasant romantic comedy about modern identity, with Michael Garfield, John Thurnham and Ben Chaplin. Directed, Michael Lehmann.

THE SECRET OF ROAM IRISH (PG) Wonderful Celtic tale with a realistic slant. Based on legend by writer-director John Hayes.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS (19) Pleasant romantic comedy about modern identity, with Michael Garfield, John Thurnham and Ben Chaplin. Directed, Michael Lehmann.

THE SECRET OF ROAM IRISH (PG) Wonderful Celtic tale with a realistic slant. Based on legend by writer-director John Hayes.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS (19) Pleasant romantic comedy about modern identity, with Michael Garfield, John Thurnham and Ben Chaplin. Directed, Michael Lehmann.

THE SECRET OF ROAM IRISH (PG) Wonderful Celtic tale with a realistic slant. Based on legend by writer-director John Hayes.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS (19) Pleasant romantic comedy about modern identity, with Michael Garfield, John Thurnham and Ben Chaplin. Directed, Michael Lehmann.

THE SECRET OF ROAM IRISH (PG) Wonderful Celtic tale with a realistic slant. Based on legend by writer-director John Hayes.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS (19) Pleasant romantic comedy about modern identity, with Michael Garfield, John Thurnham and Ben Chaplin. Directed, Michael Lehmann.

THE SECRET OF ROAM IRISH (PG) Wonderful Celtic tale with a realistic slant. Based on legend by writer-director John Hayes.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS (19) Pleasant romantic comedy about modern identity, with Michael Garfield, John Thurnham and Ben Chaplin. Directed, Michael Lehmann.

THE SECRET OF ROAM IRISH (PG) Wonderful Celtic tale with a realistic slant. Based on legend by writer-director John Hayes.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS (19) Pleasant romantic comedy about modern identity, with Michael Garfield, John Thurnham and Ben Chaplin. Directed, Michael Lehmann.

THE SECRET OF ROAM IRISH (PG) Wonderful Celtic tale with a realistic slant. Based on legend by writer-director John Hayes.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS (19) Pleasant romantic comedy about modern identity, with Michael Garfield, John Thurnham and Ben Chaplin. Directed, Michael Lehmann.

THE SECRET OF ROAM IRISH (PG) Wonderful Celtic tale with a realistic slant. Based on legend by writer-director John Hayes.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS (19) Pleasant romantic comedy about modern identity, with Michael Garfield, John Thurnham and Ben Chaplin. Directed, Michael Lehmann.

THE SECRET OF ROAM IRISH (PG) Wonderful Celtic tale with a realistic slant. Based on legend by writer-director John Hayes.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS (19) Pleasant romantic comedy about modern identity, with Michael Garfield, John Thurnham and Ben Chaplin. Directed, Michael Lehmann.

THE SECRET OF ROAM IRISH (PG) Wonderful Celtic tale with a realistic slant. Based on legend by writer-director John Hayes.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS (19) Pleasant romantic comedy about modern identity, with Michael Garfield, John Thurnham and Ben Chaplin. Directed, Michael Lehmann.

THE SECRET OF ROAM IRISH (PG) Wonderful Celtic tale with a realistic slant. Based on legend by writer-director John Hayes.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS (19) Pleasant romantic comedy about modern identity, with Michael Garfield, John Thurnham and Ben Chaplin. Directed, Michael Lehmann.

THE SECRET OF ROAM IRISH (PG) Wonderful Celtic tale with a realistic slant. Based on legend by writer-director John Hayes.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS (19) Pleasant romantic comedy about modern identity, with Michael Garfield, John Thurnham and Ben Chaplin. Directed, Michael Lehmann.

THE SECRET OF ROAM IRISH (PG) Wonderful Celtic tale with a realistic slant. Based on legend by writer-director John Hayes.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS (19) Pleasant romantic comedy about modern identity, with Michael Garfield, John Thurnham and Ben Chaplin. Directed, Michael Lehmann.

THE SECRET OF ROAM IRISH (PG) Wonderful Celtic tale with a realistic slant. Based on legend by writer-director John Hayes.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS (19) Pleasant romantic comedy about modern identity, with Michael Garfield, John Thurnham and Ben Chaplin. Directed, Michael Lehmann.

THE SECRET OF ROAM IRISH (PG) Wonderful Celtic tale with a realistic slant. Based on legend by writer-director John Hayes.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS (19) Pleasant romantic comedy about modern identity, with Michael Garfield, John Thurnham and Ben Chaplin. Directed, Michael Lehmann.

THE SECRET OF ROAM IRISH (PG) Wonderful Celtic tale with a realistic slant. Based on legend by writer-director John Hayes.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS (19) Pleasant romantic comedy about modern identity, with Michael Garfield, John Thurnham and Ben Chaplin. Directed, Michael Lehmann.

THE SECRET OF ROAM IRISH (PG) Wonderful Celtic tale with a realistic slant. Based on legend by writer-director John Hayes.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS (19) Pleasant romantic comedy about modern identity, with Michael Garfield, John Thurnham and Ben Chaplin. Directed, Michael Lehmann.

THE SECRET OF ROAM IRISH (PG) Wonderful Celtic tale with a realistic slant. Based on legend by writer-director John Hayes.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS (19) Pleasant romantic comedy about modern identity, with Michael Garfield, John Thurnham and Ben Chaplin. Directed, Michael Lehmann.

THE SECRET OF ROAM IRISH (PG) Wonderful Celtic tale with a realistic slant. Based on legend by writer-director John Hayes.

NEW ON VIDEO

JUMANJI Columbia TriStar, PG, 1995

JUMANJI is a board game that releases tigers, rhinos and other jungle horrors into the house of whoever throws the dice. The game also unleashes Robin Williams, sucked into the board 25 years earlier as a child, and desperate to complete the game. The storyline could be strengthened, but the action is spectacular, fuelled by computer-generated special effects that bring African wildlife crashing through a New Hampshire town. Joe Johnston, veteran of *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids*, directs. Available to rent.

A HANDFUL OF DUST Arrow, PG, 1988

IN THE wake of the television success of *Brideshead Revisited*, another Evelyn Waugh novel received the tasteful caress of director Charles Sturridge. Sharper hands were needed to extract the best from Waugh's bitter tale of a doomed marriage, but the acting and settings provide their own plush pleasures. The stiff upper-tipped husband is James Wilby; the unfaithful wife, Kristin Scott Thomas.

TRAINSPOTTING PolyGram, IS, 1996

THE lives of heroin addicts from the side of Edinburgh that tourists never see: suppositories, needles, retching and writhing, pint glasses dropped on to people's heads. Swerving madly from realism to fantasy, the film of Irvine Welsh's cult novel offers audiences no easy refuge. There is no condemnation of drugs, no strong plot to provide the comforts of fiction. The film is made by the triumvirate who made *Shallow Grave*: writer John Hodge, director Danny Boyle, producer Andrew Macdonald. That black comedy, however, was nothing next to this ferocious beast. Available to rent.

IVAN THE TERRIBLE Tartan, PG, 1944-6

EISENSTEIN's towering epic, left incomplete at his death in 1948, thrusts us into the power struggles of 16th-century Russia. Nikolai Cherkassov dwarfs all other actors as the ruthless Tsar, whose progress we follow from triumph to setback to triumph; though he faces strong competition from

Prokofiev's music and Eisenstein's overpowering flair for the telling image and the theatrical gesture.

THE INDIAN IN THE CUPBOARD CVC, PG, 1995

ENDERBURY gentle Hollywood adaptation of Lynne Reid Banks' stories about a magic cupboard that

brings toys to life, including a 3in American Indian who appears before the amazed eyes of a nine-year-old boy.

Hal Scardino steers clear of all cuteness as the child, and rap artist Littlefoot cuts a striking figure as the Iroquois warrior. Former Muppeteer Frank Oz directed. Available to rent.

GEOFF BROWN

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

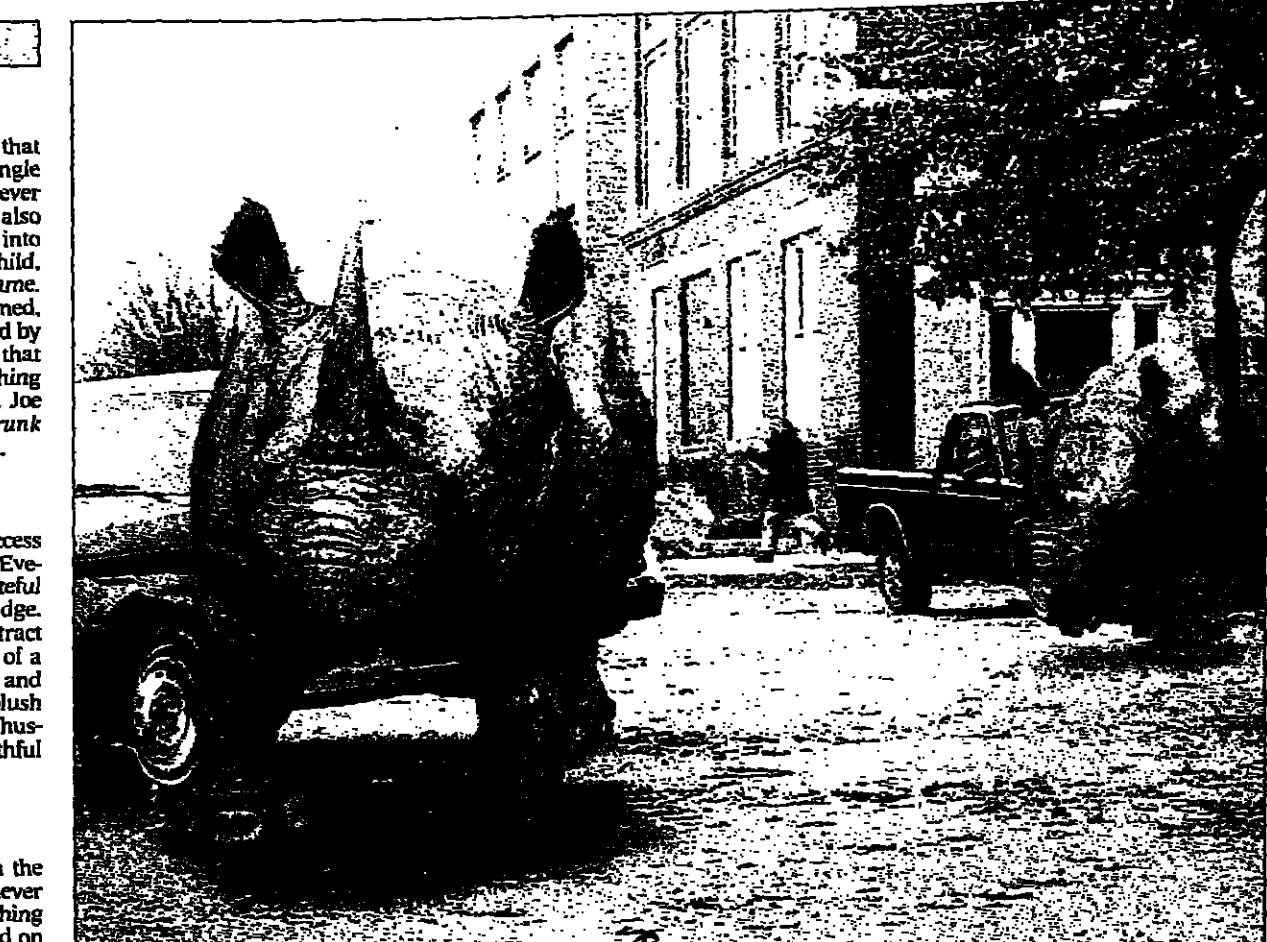
Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*



Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

Computer-aided African wildlife comes crashing through a New Hampshire town in spectacular *Jumanji*

NEW RELEASES

THE CROSSING GUARD (15) Growing father (Jack Nicholson) plots revenge for his daughter's death. Powerful drama from writer-director Sean Penn.

HUNTER ARTIST Bernard Ruddy's remarkable and intense 45-minute film, inspired by Kafka, plus two other British shorts.

ICA Cinema (011-430 3647).

LAST DANCE (18) Sharon Stone sits on Death Row, robs lawyer Roy Moore wants to save her. Earnest but perfunctory drama from director Bruce Beresford.



DANCE

The old mastery is displayed as Baryshnikov brings his company to the Coliseum



THEATRE

Ayckbourn's *It Could Be Any One of Us* is rejigged to good effect at Scarborough

THE TIMES ARTS



OPERA

The rarest of rare Rossini is unearthed and staged with great gusto at Pesaro's festival



TOMORROW

Can a new musical by Jim Cartwright recreate the Sixties? Benedict Nightingale gives his verdict

First among equals

DANCE: Debra Craine sees Mikhail Baryshnikov bring his White Oak Project to London

Once a star, always a star. No matter how much Mikhail Baryshnikov may deny his celebrity — and he does play the role of humble dancer very well indeed — it is what has kept his White Oak Dance Project alive these past six years. Baryshnikov, now 48, is the one they all come to see, and if along the way they absorb some challenging new choreography, all the better. White Oak's track record in commissioning work reads like a *Who's Who* of contemporary American dance: Paul Taylor, Twyla Tharp, Lar Lubovitch, Jerome Robbins, Dana Reitz, and, of course, Mark Morris, who helped Baryshnikov to set up the enterprise after he hung up his pink prince's slippers in 1990. But the company is also dedicated to nurturing less familiar artists and this is the work which opens and closes White Oak's Coliseum programme. Unfortunately, these are something of a disappointment.

Ruthlyn Salomons is a dancer in the company. *Quiet As It's Kept* marks her choreographic debut with White Oak. Set to Villa-Lobos, it features a quartet of women linked in a liquid dance of vacuous purpose. The lighting is moody, dappled and dark; the costumes are patterned silk; the choreography is posed and listless, with a whiff of the Orient about it. The total package is soothing but nondescript.

Kraig Patterson, responsible for the programme-closer *What a Beauty!* (set to Smetana's String Quartet No 1), is part of the Mark Morris dance family. And like Morris, there is an underlying sadness in his choreography for five couples, a sense that initial happy encounters are short-lived, that loneliness and failure will greet those brave enough to knock at the door of love. Patterson's choice of steps tells us what we need to know, but he has trouble sustaining his ideas, letting the work drift off course.

The best of the evening was courtesy of Merce Cunningham, who has been making dances for more than 50 years.

His superb *Septet* comes from 1953, the year he founded his company. Cunningham's genius was there from the start. Accompanied by Satie's *Trois Morceaux en forme de poire*, *Septet* is filled with an amazing invention, integrity and wit. The protracted balances and torso-tilting sculptures are never allowed to get too serious, too self-important; a cheeky non-sequitur lurks around every corner.

The dancers of White Oak, especially Jamie Bishon, lap up the playfulness and sly humour, even though they lack the exactness which Cunningham's own troupe bring to the work. Here, as elsewhere, the music was played live: White Oak travels with its own fine musicians.

As a reward to the audience, there were two solos for Baryshnikov himself (he was part of the ensemble in *What a Beauty!*). *Three Russian Preludes*, by Morris, is a delightful concoction (sparked by three Shostakovich Preludes) tailor-made for Baryshnikov's articulate intensity.

Tucked into a restrictive waistcoat and tight collar, Baryshnikov looks like a stuffy, middle-aged academic straining at the leash. With a single stare, he suggests an odyssey. Morris observes how everything is a possibility for Baryshnikov as a dancer — as, indeed, it has been since he left Russia more than 20 years ago — and also how the journey has both liberated and wearied him.

By contrast, José Limón's 1942 solo *Chaconne* has a sweep and self-confidence that rides the music (Bach) with flair and determination. And, again, Baryshnikov astounds us with his dancing. He still retains the dazzling technical perfection from his days as a classical dancer, but what is more exciting is how he invests every tiny moment with equal respect and attention, inhabiting the choreography with an almost spiritual devotion. Dancing doesn't get any better than this — and that's why the man will always be a star.



Mikhail Baryshnikov, with Ruthlyn Salomons, in *What a Beauty!* at the Coliseum

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale admires a hilarious Ayckbourn revival in Scarborough

Red herrings make a clever dish

Hot on the heels of *By Jeeves*, whose first incarnation flopped in 1975, comes a new version of *It Could Be Any One of Us*, which failed less conspicuously in 1983. Alan Ayckbourn is very much in the rejigging vein nowadays, which is good news for the rest of us. His parody of country-house thrillers (now at the Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough) is unlikely to win as many friends as his musical collaboration with Andrew Lloyd Webber, perhaps because the only tune worth whistling is a wretched nursery dirge about expiring sausages. But it is equally unassuming, equally playful and, I think, almost equally diverting.

B-movie chords set the atmosphere. So does Sturm and Drang in the English sky. So do characters who combine eccentricity with a decaying grange habitat. Mortimer, Brinton and Jocelyn Chalke are not only brothers and sister, but — thanks to a pushy Bohemian mother — respectively a failed composer, a failed painter and a failed writer. Jocelyn also has a daughter called Amy who is a failure at everything except overeating, and a lover called Norris, a failed private detective with aspirations to be a Wimsey or Morse.

Norris's chance comes when Malcolm Remnie, his brains-buffed by having been the still turned by having been the



Juliet Mills and Janet Dibley in Ayckbourn's "thriller", *It Could Be Any One of Us*

poser of the Year in 1960, tells his younger siblings he is leaving the Chalke riches to a long-departed piano pupil.

"You're a malignant growth," he roars at them. "I'm going to cauterise you." Those are not wise words to utter in a country-house thriller, even a comic one. I don't think I am giving too much away if I reveal that Mortimer

ends up on the carpet, his brains now turned off by a sharp blow with the statuette that was awarded all those years ago.

Plenty of sinister happenings have preceded this climax. Indeed, it had looked as if someone was trying to murder Mortimer's proposed beneficiary, a trim housewife and pet-shop owner called

Wendy. She is the sort of cheerful, unimaginative suburbanite who says: "Well, things always come in threes."

After the car brakes have failed at 70mph, an enormous wardrobe has almost squashed her, and bleach has been found in her wine glass, Janet Dibley has a hilarious time playing her. But is she the victim, killer, red herring or what?

This is where Jon Strickland's thin, driven Norris comes into his own. "I wonder if you'd mind assembling in this room in five minutes. I've got one or two bombshells to drop," he announces, Poirot-fashion.

But of course his bombshells turn out to contain more blather than bang. So who killed Mortimer? Even if the unwritten rules allowed me to tell you, I couldn't do so, for the title means what it says. The Ayckbourn who loves tricks, games and odd, unpredictable permutations is in control, as he was of *Sisterly Feelings* and *Intimate Exchanges*, and a solution to *It Could Be Any One of Us* apparently varies from evening to evening.

On the first night it was not a lot less satisfying than the denouement of most of the Christie novels I have read or seen. And that was due as much to Ayckbourn the playwright. He gets nice performances from everyone, including Juliet Mills as a melancholy, well-meaning Jocelyn and Richard Derrington as the over-age mother's boy and Lewis Carroll-like paedophile, Brinton.

But maybe the pick of the bunch is Tabitha Wady as Amy, a sullen, fretful yet vulnerable blob with punk braids that leap erratically from her head, like black worms escaping a hillock. This is an actress sure to recur.

OPERA: A Rossini treasure, and a haunting Britten

Tuck into a rare Neapolitan treat

ROSSINI wrote 39 operas, so Pesaro has an easier task than, say, Bayreuth, restricted to recycling Wagner's mature canon of only ten: Pesaro mounts three pieces a year, and more than a decade can pass without much risk of repetition.

Last week it fielded virtually a Rossini premiere, *Matilde di Shabran*, which had not been seen anywhere since 1892. This need not be taken to mean that it isn't any good. The survival and revival of Rossini operas is a matter of pure chance — after all *Ermione*, once again flooring audiences at Glyndebourne with its lebric dramatic power, languished unperformed for far longer.

Matilde is officially an opera semiseria, though there proved to be precious little seria about this delightfully zany comedy. It was composed to a libretto by Giacomo (Cesare) Ferretti in the carnival season in Rome in 1821, with some numbers in the second act subcontracted to Pacini but recomposed by Rossini for Naples the following year — the Neapolitan version was given at Pesaro.

It is a medieval spoof anticipating *Le Comte Ory*, and thence much of Offenbach. Count Corradino the iron-hearted is a militaristic misogynist, terrorising his tenants and drilling his soldiery into the ground; naturally all he needs (and gets) is the love of a good woman, Matilde; she survives being hurled over a precipice on his orders (the hurler, a bad poet, explains away her reappearance by reporting that he only hurled her metaphorically), and celebrates the happy end with the memorable words: "Women are born to conquer and rule."

The plot is thickened by a travesti mezzo warrior languishing in Corradino's dungeons: her two arias momentarily supply the seria element. The action proceeds through ensembles rather than formal arias and duets, and Ferretti's text is full of ripely comic situations to which Rossini responds with tongue-in-cheek insouciance.

It was most expertly conducted and paced by Yves

Rossini Opera Festival Pesaro

Abel — the first act lasts for more than two hours but never felt like it — and the producer-designer, Pier Alli, caught the anarchic humour by ensuring that everyone on stage took themselves desperately seriously. Sadly Bruce Ford, around whom the production was planned, had to withdraw with wisdom-tooth trouble, but the management found a remarkable substitute in the 23-year-old Peruvian tenor Juan Diego Florez, who made light of Corradino's high-flying lines and made an ideally fatuous, Great Dictator-like figure of him.

Elizabeth Futral was an enchanting Matilde — her entry with a parasol in blush pink amid the martial-arts exercises was a moment to treasure — and the mezzo Patricia Spence sang her two arias with grave beauty. *Matilde* is not a lost masterpiece on the scale of *Ory*, but its century-long neglect is as absurd as it is undeserved.

There were two revivals. *L'occasione fa il ladro* was given in the popular but, to my eyes, insufferably twee Ponnelle production, in which Rockwell Blake, a great local favourite, and Eva Mei sang with much elegance. *Ricciardo e Zoraide*, a Naples-period opera seria (1819), was infinite-

ly more rewarding although, as a production, decidedly run. The director, Luca Ronconi took the Nubian setting at face value, so most of the solists, all of the chorus and the army of extras were blacked up to the nines: it was like a *Minstrel Show* with a superior score, and one half expected the cast to break into a rousing chorus of *Mammy*. Add a characterisation of the Nubian King Agorante that made Waugh's *Black Mischief* look positively tasteful, and you have a staging that — how to put it? — might not travel easily, certainly not across the Atlantic.

It was nevertheless beautifully designed and lit, and musically — very powerful. Again, *Ricciardo* may not be in the Rossini top ten, but it is full of interesting and innovative ideas, and David Parry kept it all briskly on the move. Charles Workman's Ferrando and Almaviva for ENO, excellent though they were, had not prepared me for his superb performance as Agorante: not an ugly sound all evening, liquid phrasing, crystal-clear diction. Gregory Kunde was barely less successful as his Christian antagonist Ricciardo, and Mariana Penteche came on with all guns blazing as the vengeful Nubian queen, a sort of dry run for Annenkov. Anna Rita Taliento sounded out of sorts as Zoraide, and was unkindly booed for her pains.

RODNEY MILNES



Pesaro's rewarding if run revival of *Ricciardo e Zoraide*

Chills on a hot night

The Turn of the Screw Broomhill Opera

ALL Broomhill ever lacked was a ghost. Peter Quint and Miss Jessel dutifully took up residence at the start of the week in Kent's Italianate, custom-built unstately home, with its spooky water tower, its endless corridors and its tiny, dark theatre. And what a haunting was theirs!

A sickly moon even saw fit to rise over the white lake outside, just as Flora well might drowned her dolly before the interval. And Quint himself stalked the theatre's dark galleries, permeating every atom of its sultry air. But nowhere was his presence more powerfully felt than in his absence. During his long, melismatic serenade to Miles, he remained invisible, his elusive voice as bold and beautiful as the aurora borealis of light playing on the backdrop.

Caroline Ward's production (which runs on Saturday and Sunday, then on August 28, 30, 31) knows that, for Britten's ever-troubling ceremony of innocence lost and drowned, nothing succeeds like an empty space. Her designers, Jane Singleton and John Bishop (lighting), use only curtains: a sheet of trembling silk at the front, heavy off-white drapes mid-stage, and a dark shadow of gauze at the back. As the children sing in the churchyard in Act II, a Commendatore-like statue, all veiled in black, stands, apparently unobserved, on a central plinth. With the chilling speed with which these scenes elide, Miss Jessel descends from it, and it becomes the Governess's desk.

In this tiny monochrome world of shadows and silhouettes, there is no hiding place. Ward leaves her characters alone, centre-stage, whenever possible: their solitude is emphasised, their yearning for human contact — and control — almost palpable. Britten's music does the rest. His 15 variations, each one turning the screw even tighter, say it all, of course, especially

present guardians are pulled tight in Ward's staging. Yet again, one is struck by the ambiguity of the Governess's final cry over Miles's dead body: "Together we have destroyed him..."

when recreated in the gleaming and pungent detail of the Eos Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Charles Hazlewood in Broomhill's stuffily close, clear acoustic.

In Wyoming-born Shawn Bartels, Broomhill has a movingly young Peter Quint, a strange, incorporeal sexuality writhe in his lithe tenor. His counterpart, Beverley O'Regan Thiele, makes a smouldering Miss Jessel. In this web of illusion and delusion, victims and victors, the diagonals of their encounters with the children and with their

Lyne Davies can at times be vocally as well as nervously strained as the Governess, but her performance is a compelling one, and is powerfully matched by Carol Rowlands, often singing in numb half-voice as Mrs Grose. Twelve-year-old Thomas Appleton, from St Paul's Cathedral Choir School, gives an unusually perceptive and expressive performance as Miles, with a scarcely less disturbing and disturbed Flora in Roseline Tessier-Lemoyne.

HILARY FINCH

Just truly satisfying realism - crisp, clean, sound without harshness or compromise. When choosing quality hi-fi, everything you hear about AVI is true. Especially if you listen to the experts. Gramophone magazine presented AVI with two prestigious awards for its "high perfect audio". While Hi-Fi News and Record Review, suggested AVI should be "highly recommended to any serious music lover". AVI Systems start from around £2,750.

To hear true reality, call 01453 752656

With AVI hi-fi there is no harsh reality.

AVI International Limited, Unit F-10, Park Road Trading Estate, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL8 3XJ, England.

Peter Ackroyd on an English visionary whose worldly failure contrasted with the imaginative triumph of his novels

This second volume of biography opens with the relationship which dominated the rest of Lawrence's life — Frieda von Richthofen, née Weekley, decamped with the young novelist to Germany where they promptly began to behave as if they were part of some grand passing play. At one moment he would be beating her or ordering her to wash the floor but at the next, as Professor Kinkead-Weekes reports in this exhaustive biography, they would be found "singing German folk-songs at the tops of their voices". They had one other thing in common, also; they both took their feelings very seriously indeed, and were capable of acting out great dramas of intimacy and rejection.

Lawrence's rages and frustrations, also chronicled with unerring precision in his book, may in fact have sprung from his own knowledge of his dependency. He was in every sense a married man, who could not have survived without Frieda's protective care. The world was, after all, against him. He was ambitious of literary success, only to see one novel prosecuted and another rejected. He was almost always impoverished, living off the charity of friends or the support of his Nottinghamshire family; he was often depressed, and suffered from a variety of illnesses which seem to have been of nervous origin.

He had no real audience, and truly believed himself to be an "alien" in his own country. He was a short and slight man who to one contemporary seemed "very working class". He looked thin and ragged, his wrists and ankles emerging from the edges of his much-washed clothing.

But if this biography is a record of worldly failure it is also an account of imaginative triumph — in this period of ten years he wrote *The Rainbow*, *Women in*

Lawrence in love

D. H. LAWRENCE
Triumph to Exile, 1912-1922
By Mark Kinkead-Weekes
Cambridge University Press, £20.95
ISBN 0 521 25420 5

Love, *The Lost Girl* and *Aaron's Rod*, as well as some of his most celebrated stories and poems. Of course there seemed to be no triumph at the time, and the disparity between his external circumstances and his creative powers led to strains which shook Lawrence almost to the point of disintegration — in the process thoroughly unnerve those who remained close to him.

He was always alarmingly, although sometimes comically, self-obsessed. This emerged as caustic and sometimes murderous misanthropy: "I do want to kill," he wrote to Ottoline Morrell. "But I want to select whom I shall kill." Perhaps that is why his fury and frustration were directed at particular targets. The story of his relationships here — with Ottoline Morrell, E. M. Forster, Bertrand Russell, Katherine Mansfield and others — is generally dispiriting. They were all so guarded and so sensitive that they breathed anger or apprehension each time they met, while he behaved like a raging bull among the Bloomsbury china. His letters to friends are filled with a doom-laden but convincing psychological rhetoric which at the time must have sounded terrifying.



The Lawrences with John Middleton Murray (left) at their wedding, 1914

He had a great store of moral self-righteousness, in other words, which he could launch in the direction of other people without the slightest compunction. That is why he and Frieda often outstayed their welcome in various parts of England and Europe, and were forever moving on. The chronology of these ten years often resembles a railway timetable, but it would also

be true to say that Lawrence possessed an interior and often fevered restlessness. He was so aware of the worldly failure he endured that he was constantly anxious to change the scene, but he was also possessed of an imaginative energy which needed new sensations properly to flourish. So they moved from Germany to Austria and Italy, then back to England where they variously travelled to Edenbridge, London, Kent, Buckinghamshire, Sussex, Cornwall and Derbyshire with visits to Switzerland and Italy between.

All of their other journeys will be chronicled in this most detailed and meticulous of all Lawrence biographies; it is planned to encompass three volumes, each with a different author. Such an elaborate study might not be to everyone's taste, but the expense of this particular volume of some nine hundred closely printed pages at least testifies to the almost Lawrentian care and richness with which Kinkead-Weekes has explored the novelist's private dramas.

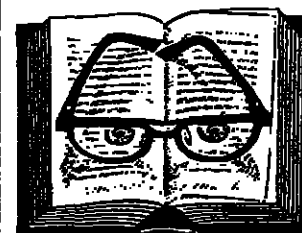
There were a great many of these — with the advantage, however, that Lawrence's intuition and psychological flair created a unique vocabulary of feeling or passion. Not a letter or memoir has been left unturned, and there are times when the pace of the book is gradual enough to give the reader the impression that he is living in the same room as its subjects. This is, of course, not always or necessarily a comfortable situation.

But this biography does provide insights other than those centring upon Lawrence's passionate self-aggrandisement. In the careful description of the novelist's literary revisions and recensions, for example, it is interesting to note Lawrence's technical maladroitness. He possessed very little sense of structure and would plunder one narrative in order to manufacture two novels. He made many false starts and would cheerfully abandon material (sometimes never returning to it) while all the time he rewrote endlessly and quickly. This is of course all part of the man's genius, an extraordinary unformed creativeness which never attained definite shape.

There may, however, be certain disadvantages in lacking a purely formal intelligence. It meant, for example, that his own philosophical and psychological speculations (however just) tended to fly off in all directions at once. He was, in one sense, a visionary looking for a framework of belief to support his visions — in that sense he joins a long tradition of English writing which has been neglected by those who seek only social or intellectual comfort in their fictions.

Lawrence was never a comfortable writer. He was a "passionately religious man" who despised and rejected what he called the "unreligious" sensibility of his contemporaries. He wished to create, in the words of Kinkead-Weekes, "an art which can render impersonal forces... below the level of consciousness". That was another reason why he chose to travel: he wished to leave a secular England and find those "hidden forces" wherever they might exist. This interesting and perceptive volume ends with Lawrence en route to Ceylon. He has only eight more years to live.

Back on the rails



BIBLIOMANE

Some ghastly designer is turning our post offices green. There doesn't seem even to be the excuse of functional improvement, as was alleged when our red telephone boxes were stolen. Once upon a time, though, corporate design was not ephemeral, but purposeful. Designed for London by Oliver Green and Jeremy Rewse-Davies (Laurence King, £19.95, ISBN 1 85669 064 4) tells how London Transport, an alliance of operations brought together in 1933, turned itself into a coherent network by attention to detail.

Starting with the vision of chief executive Frank Pick, the company commissioned work from artists including Epstein, Bawden, Rex Whistler, Henry Moore, David Gentleman and Man Ray — who have nothing in common except quality. Everything down to the patterns for seat covers was carefully considered. Two vital elements of LT design were essentially practical: Edward Johnston's newly legible display lettering, and Harry Beck's newly comprehensible Underground map. Each is now the subject of its own book.

The block-letter commissioned for the Underground in 1916 and seen on station names ever since is celebrated in Colin Banks's *London's Handwriting* (LT Museum, 150 copies). It is a striking folio, with examples of the sans-serif alphabet printed from the original wood and metal by the Libanus Press. There are also illustrations for comparison of the family of digitised "New Johnston" faces — more tasteful than one might expect from designers who insist on shunting themselves together as Banks & Miles.

The history of *Mr Beck's Underground Map* may not sound enthralling, but it is. It is a tale of inspiration, intrigue and perseverance. The geographical Tube maps issued before 1932 were awkward jumbles, and Beck's elegant distortion was a breakthrough. At first glance, the map (or, more properly, diagram) looks immutable, but copious illustrations trace apparently endless modifications made in the struggle to reconcile aesthetics and practicality. Beck was paid a pittance, and surrendered the copyright on the understanding that he would be allowed to design future versions. In 1960, LT dishonoured this agreement by bringing in a new draughtsman, which caused Beck enormous distress. Sadly, his best diagram, incorporating the new Victoria Line in 1961, was never printed.

The world-famous diagram can clearly become an obsession. Beck worked on it for 30 years, and Ken Garland, the impassioned author of this splendid, unlikely book (*Capital Transport*, £10.99, ISBN 1 85414 168 6) wrote about it first 27 years ago.

This month a new series of Art on the Underground posters and cards has been launched with nine striking four-colour wood engravings by Edwina Ellis, close-ups of some of London's best recent buildings. They are also available in limited editions from Duncan Campbell Fine Art in Kensington (0171 937 8665). But I wish LT would blow them up really large, just to see how the register and resolution hold.

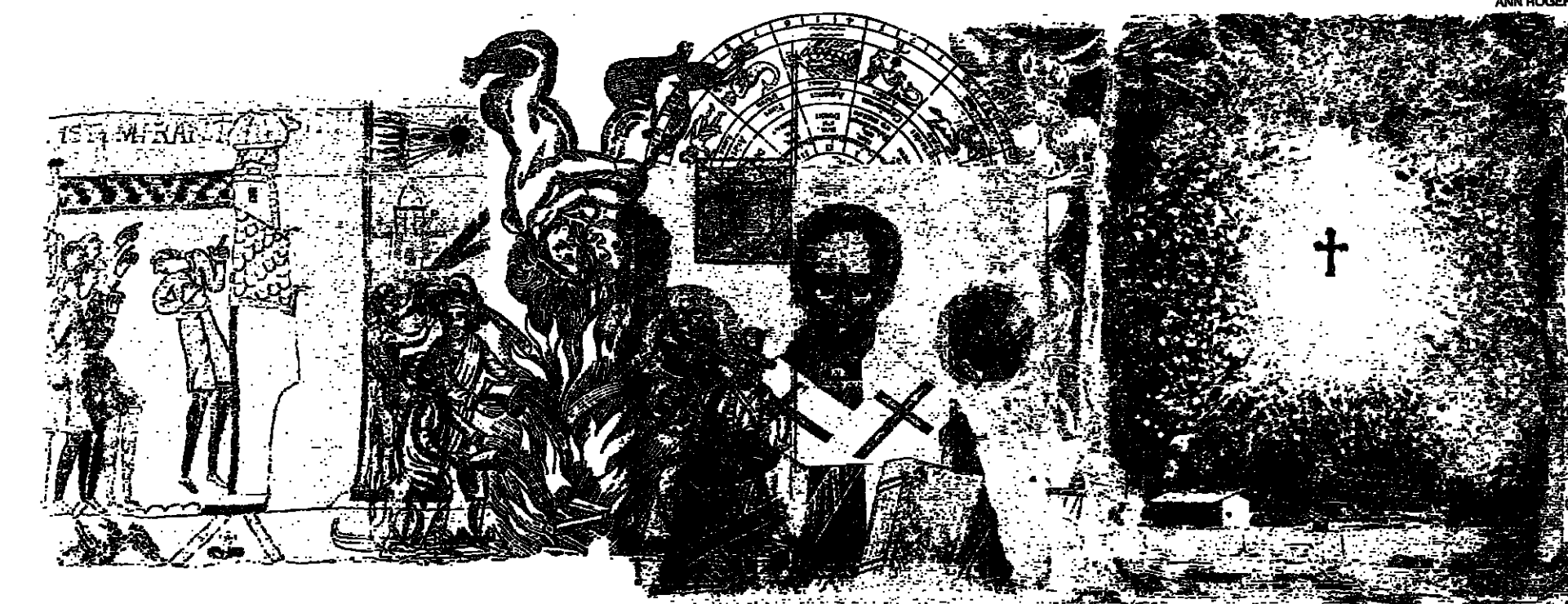
You wait and wait for books on a subject, and then several come along together. Perhaps that's why it's called an omnibus review.

JIM MCCUE

Vision of the final days

It is doubtful whether the Millennium Commission recognises its debt to a 12th-century mystic, Joachim of Fiore. It was he who popularised the idea of dividing history into ages corresponding to the members of the Trinity, and who saw his own era standing invitingly on the threshold of the Age of the Spirit. The hope of a reformed godly society gripped people's imaginations, and still does. The Age of Aquarius is a secular version of the same phenomenon.

Joachim himself was part of a much longer tradition, going back to ancient ideas about historical epochs, and surfacing biblically in Daniel and other apocalyptic writings, notably and disastrously in the Book of Revelation. Contemporary expectations about the year 2000 catch some of these overtones from the past, even though the significance attached to the passage of centuries is comparatively modern. The Anno Domini system was not widely accepted until the



reign of Charlemagne, and Damian Thompson hints at an ecclesiastical conspiracy to establish it over alternative calendars which at the time were fuelling apocalyptic speculations about the imminence of the last days. The first half of this enthralling book tells the story of these speculations, and of the attempts by the papal curia to control them. End-time beliefs can be socially explosive. They resolve the problems of insecurity by demonising opponents, and identify conflict and suffering as the prelude to a divine

intervention, which they believe will usher in a new age of peace and prosperity, to be enjoyed only by true believers. Attempts to set timetables for such events have proved particularly dangerous by whipping up excitement and expectancy. The scenarios envisaged by different groups of believers are bewilderingly varied, but the pattern remains constant and can be uncovered in all sorts of unlikely settings, in the English Civil War, for instance, and

flits foretold for the end-time, and finds these beliefs confirmed and brought to their fiery conclusion by the behaviour of the federal authorities. Developments since Waco make it clear that we have not heard the last of such groups, and that they can become frighteningly violent when their identity is threatened. The United States is a fertile breeding ground for God-fearing, gun-toting outsiders, who see the Government as the enemy of freedom, who lack an identifiable demon since the collapse of communism, and who feed their paranoia on the Internet's capacity for circulating unattributable rumours. Such beliefs are also rife in South America, Africa and South-East Asia.

John Habgood

THE END OF TIME
Faith and Fear in the Shadow of the Millennium
By Damian Thompson
Sinclair-Stevenson, £10.99
ISBN 1 85618 795 6

on some of the contemporary manifestations of these forces. It recounts the worldwide growth of militant evangelicalism, the hot-potch of ideas under the label New Age, and the religious fervour in South Korea, where the hundreds of neon crosses which light up the night sky are described as landing lights for the Second Coming of Christ. Sectarian end-time thinking is said to have influenced the murderous Aum community in Japan, despite its ostensible Buddhism. The tragedy of the Branch Davidians in Waco is presented as a textbook case. An idealistic community of marginalised fundamentalists, dominated by an increasingly eccentric leader, is driven into a state of isolation by its beliefs about the con-

The British Isles, so far, seem relatively immune. But wherever there are people who feel that their world is disintegrating, tight-knit religious groups are likely to flourish, their zeal increased by thoughts that the end is near. The approach of the year 2000 is likely to add to the pressures, and probably also to the disappointments, unless thoughts about the millennium can be rooted more firmly in thanksgiving than in celestial calculations. Damian Thompson has provided a valuable and compulsively readable guide to a little-known world. His book is a timely reminder of the need to understand religion and take it seriously — preferably from the perspective of a sane theology.

Gillian Greenwood

THE GLADE WITHIN
THE GROVE
By David Foster
Fourth Estate, £16.99
ISBN 1 85702 452 4

ITS 1968 and Australia, like the Western world, is infected or inspired, depending on your perspective, by a youth revolution ranging from hard left to hedonism, fuelled by drugs and music, and in which all value judgments and most rationality are suspended. Or that's the subculture on which David Foster has drawn to produce an original novel which throbs with a peculiar Antipodean energy.

The Baron D'Arcy D'Olive, a retired postman and long time English émigré, narrates a bizarre tale based, he claims, on a ballad he found during the early 1990s at the bottom of an old mailbox. A curious bunch of young people, it tells, were drawn to a virtually

inaccessible valley, the Erinungarah, in a forested area on the south coast of Australia. A cult evolved from a mixture of idealism, instability, disillusion and insanity. D'Arcy researches his material in haphazard fashion and pieces together what he

Testing the text

"THERE is nothing outside the text." So says Jacques Derrida, high priest of the Post-Modern and master of literary theory. "How many children had Lady Macbeth?" was a question mockingly posed in the 1930s by the Leavisite L.C. Knights. On this, if on nothing else, humanist and Post-Structuralist agree. A novel or play, they insist, is a verbal construct. To extend its events outside the tale it tells is just ridiculous.

Against this consensus John Sutherland rebels, certain that the reader is on his side. His subject is the 19th-century novel. *Is Heathcliff a Murderer?* (OUP, £3.99, ISBN 0 19 282516 X) consists of 34 brief essays on 36 well-known

novels, all available in the World's Classics series. Each essay explores some issue of the world these books refer to, some problem posed by the text but not resolved within it. Inevitably, this draws us into 19th-century history. The cultural commentator Edward Said recently caused a stir by announcing that Mansfield Park (in Jane Austen's novel) depends for its income on Caribbean slavery. Without disagreeing, Sutherland goes deeper into the context and comes up with a solution that is much to Jane Austen's credit, and adds to the story's moral weight.

As the Victorian novel develops, Sutherland shows, novelists become more preoccupied

with credibility. Dickens, Trollope and Thackeray are impressionistic when it comes to chronology. By the 1860s, however, a writer like Wilkie Collins is charting everything by the calendar.

If Sutherland's book has an obvious fault, it is that he is too ready to find ingenious explanations for what may well have been simple carelessness. But this is a slight complaint. *Is Heathcliff a Murderer?* is a scholarly book, but it is wholly free from critical jargon and will answer the questions ordinary readers ask. It is also elegantly written, it wears its learning lightly and makes almost as compelling a read as the novels which it explores so scrupulously.

The essays are rarely more than six pages long, but the effect of disjointedness is avoided by the fascinating recurrence of certain 19th-century preoccupations, such as psychic research and pseudoscience, or the impact of new inventions, from the railway in Mrs Gaskell to the camera and the typewriter in Bram Stoker.

Victorian readers, of course, could interpret signs that are lost on us. The narrator of Stevenson's *The Master of Ballantrae* puts it in a nutshell: "It is a strange art," he says, "... to talk for hours of a thing, and never name nor yet so much as hint at it." Professor Sutherland is uncannily adept at reading the unspoken and, in so doing, draws our attention to things the flashier modern critics forbid us to see.

CLIVE WILMER



A guilty man? Laurence Olivier as Heathcliff and Merle Oberon as Cathy in *Wuthering Heights* (1939)

The wonderful Baron of Oz

describes as a gloss on the ballad. The result is a somewhat wacky but clever and comic rollercoaster ride through alternative life in 1968. From demos in Sydney then down to the Valley, from high-flown philosophical asides to penis rings, from mythological comparisons to discourses on how to get an engine started, and all with a purpose, a gloss on the "gloss".

The large cast of characters is well juggled and they are curiously credible in their passions and concerns given the element of caricature. There's a deserter from Viet-

nam, a junkie musician, a promiscuous ex-Playboy centrefold and her long-suffering husband, a hillbilly family — at times it's like *Neighbours* on acid. All migrate, gradually and unpromptedly, to the Erinungarah Valley and there, according to our narrator (who is of course unreliable) the strangeness begins.

To tell the tale of a cult or commune, a comedy or tragedy, has proved difficult in fiction. David Foster has come close in this novel. He has achieved it by mostly avoiding direct description of the curious events which are alleged to have taken place. Instead,

the events are referred to obliquely in a preamble and subsequently in a series of comments, or research notes, on the characters as they take their turn on the stage.

IT'S a successful construction, drawing the reader into the mystery but giving enough information to pace the narrative and allow enjoyment of the narrator's flights of erudition, which include some very funny loose translations from the classics as well as an intriguing build-up of mythological patterns to explain both our and the book's commentators' existential dilemma.

At the heart of the novel is a lost Australian landscape: rainforest, overtaken by the eucalyptus. There are lush and loving botanical set pieces, enlivened by a potent symbolism. The stage is set for a re-enactment of the myth of Atis who metamorphosed into a tree after castrating himself.

Throughout the book there are teasing references to a "Sacred Pump" and emasculation. There's a gruesome treatise on the various forms of castration which male readers will find particularly chilling. Sex, jealousy and a spiritual and ecological bankruptcy are the forces which move Foster's strange crew to their even stranger nemesis in tragicomic style.

THE TIMES Subscriptions

The Times will match any subscription offer you receive from other daily national newspapers.

For further details please call us FREE on the following number:

FREEPHONE 0800 120 130

Mon to Fri 9am to 6pm, Sat 9am to 5pm

Offer available in the UK only

0800 120 130

Back on the rails



He smashed up her crockery

Derwent May
revels in Holroyd's
reappraisal of a life

Michael Holroyd is having another go with his book on Augustus John, which first came out in 1974-75. He has found some lively new material; he has also tidied up his prose, rather like a gardener picking off deadheads, and the book now appears in one volume, not two. But for me the most moving part of it is still his account of the youthful John's marriage to Ida Nettleship.

They were both students at the Slade, and were married in January 1901. They soon had children. But John, who when he arrived at the Slade from his solicitor father's home in Tenby was like a little grey chrysalis, immediately metamorphosed into a butterfly, flitting swiftly from one willing girl to another. Nothing changed with his marriage, and when eventually he fell rather more heavily for a silent, enigmatic girl called Dorelia, he persuaded Ida to accept a ménage à trois at their house in the Kent countryside.

AUGUSTUS JOHN
The New Biography
By Michael Holroyd
Chattr & Windus, £25
ISBN 0 7011 6967 X
THEMES AND VARIATIONS
The Drawings of Augustus John, 1901-1931
Lund Humphries, £14.95
ISBN 0 85331 693 7

Ida was determined to see things through, and also to make friends with Dorelia. But her letters from this time are an extraordinary record of her inner struggles. She criticises herself for her jealousy, she laughs at her foolishness, she declares her undiminished love for her Gus, but her pain clamours through it all. It was not to last all that long: she died in 1907 giving birth to their fourth son. Early on in their relationship, John had written a limerick about her and him which ended "He smashed up her crockery, poor Ida!" He certainly had.

After that John lived with Dorelia effectively as his wife, with more and more children coming into the family both from her and other women. She accepted the situation in the same cool, mysterious style she had always displayed. He pretended to marry her, in order to get his children back from Ida's disapproving mother, but only proposed to her 40 years later when he was offered a knighthood — and then he was turned down. So he rejected the knighthood — and was given an OM instead.

Most of the new material is about women and friends in John's life, already the richest part of the book and now even more stuffed with extraordinary tales. There is more about the belly-dancing model



A serene beauty that masks an inner turmoil: John's drawing of Ida in a large hat, ca. 1902; she died in 1907

Euphemia Lamb, the wife for a short while of Gus's friend the painter Henry Lamb — Lamb was also Dorelia's lover for many years. "How interesting impure women are to the poor," Virginia Woolf once said of Euphemia.

And what of Augustus John himself? In a way, it is he who lets the book down. Holroyd again and again conjures up impressions of how intoxicatingly glamorous he seemed to other people, both men and women. Yet now his interminable succession of brief amours makes for an undramatic and even gloomy read, getting worse and worse as he gets older, culminating in his ghastly, goatish pounces on Caitlin Macnamara, later to become Dylan Thomas's wife. Yet even at that time Caitlin's sister Brigit

was happily going to bed with him.

As a young artist his brilliant drawings all seemed to depend on the same kind of lightning attacks on the subject as he made on his models and other girls. Many of these drawings can be seen in the delightful book *Themes and Variations*, which accompanies an exhibition, on till September 1, at the Cardiff National Museum. (Later in September it will be at Spink's in London, and in November at Conwy.) It is a scandal that John's reputation has sunk so low, though Holroyd gives a very good account of how, after 1910, he distanced himself from the spokesmen for the modern movement. He has paid for that ever since.

His earlier portrait paintings were also very dramatic works, though

Bernard Shaw pointed to a certain dashing shallowness in many of them when he said of John's picture of him: "There's the portrait of my great reputation." It has to be admitted that even that degree of dash is harder to find in John's last portraits.

One other person who is more fully treated in this new version is Gwen John, Gus's sister. Her life — living for years alone in Paris, content with an occasional hour in bed with Rodin when he paid her a visit — was a staggering contrast to her brother's, as was her art — those haunting pictures of solitary women. "Fifty years after my death I shall be remembered as Gwen John's brother," Augustus once declared melodramatically. He died in 1901; probably, however unfairly, he will be proved right.

It's thought, Jim, but not as we know it

Susan Greenfield

THE CONSCIOUS MIND
By David J. Chalmers
OUP, £18.99
ISBN 0 19 510 553 2
KINDS OF MINDS
By Daniel Dennett
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £11.99
ISBN 0 297 81546 6

species to the next. "It [a polar bear] may not be able to talk, but surely it thinks!" Dennett's declared aim is to "shake confidence" in this seemingly plausible assertion.

The central message is that non-human animals do not have minds such as ours and hence it is a non-question to ask what an animal might think about, or what it might be like to be a bat, polar bear, or dog. A great strength in Dennett's book is his clear-sighted analysis of the cognitive abilities of different classes of animals. As brains become more sophisticated, he demonstrates the growing degree of liberation from genetic injunction and pre-programmed instincts, to indulge in ever greater unpredictability, an ever larger repertoire of responses accumulated as the fruits of individual experience.

The highly readable narrative shows how, aided enormously by language, our abilities have evolved to include those of generalisation, and thus of dealing with novel situations, to think in the abstract and consequently to eschew the present in favour of fantasy and reflection. Such elaborate self-indulgence is not possible, say, for a pigeon; but does that mean such an animal is really an automaton? From time to time Dennett touches on consciousness itself without really explaining how he sees it in relation to the "minds" he has so well classified. Rather he uses the term "sentience", where no mind-like reasoning or responses are required, to describe the "lowest form" of consciousness, a consciousness that would nonetheless serve to distinguish a pigeon from the antics of a beer-can robot. The acid test for sentience is the ability to feel pain. Dennett's solution to whether non-human animals are sentient/feel pain, is to suggest a "ramp": different animals are sentient, but to different degrees. This realistic and interesting idea, unfortunately, remains undeveloped.

Moreover, consciousness, mere passive "sentience", and abstracted reflection do not always come as a single, invariant package. In accidents, at raves, or downhill skiing, a human being is certainly conscious, yet transfixed in a present stripped of all symbolism or cognitive content. Might this be how it is for some non-human animals all the time? Perhaps it is a sign of the strength of this book that the reader is goaded into asking these questions.

Both Chalmers and Dennett admit they themselves are asking questions rather than offering answers. For my money, analysis of behaviour and animal thinking will help us feel more familiar with the problem of consciousness than metaphysical speculation prompted by a neuroscientifically-dubious thought experiment. On the other hand, there is no reason to be so sure that conventional, objective analysis of the brain's detectable functions will eventually shake down obligingly into an explanation of the subjective. For the rest of us mortals, the light is still a will-o-the-wisp.

man animals are sentient/feel pain, is to suggest a "ramp": different animals are sentient, but to different degrees. This realistic and interesting idea, unfortunately, remains undeveloped.

denies the healing optimism of youth and presents life as a survival course. This is at odds with her constant homages, via *Ulysses* and *Dubliners*, to the great liberator, James Joyce. The impression left is rather of Dylan Thomas gloom: a guilt at spying and overhearing acts too sad, furtive and brutal for a style of lush affirmation.

man animals are sentient/feel pain, is to suggest a "ramp": different animals are sentient, but to different degrees. This realistic and interesting idea, unfortunately, remains undeveloped.

denies the healing optimism of youth and presents life as a survival course. This is at odds with her constant homages, via *Ulysses* and *Dubliners*, to the great liberator, James Joyce. The impression left is rather of Dylan Thomas gloom: a guilt at spying and overhearing acts too sad, furtive and brutal for a style of lush affirmation.

denies the healing optimism of youth and presents life as a survival course. This is at odds with her constant homages, via *Ulysses* and *Dubliners*, to the great liberator, James Joyce. The impression left is rather of Dylan Thomas gloom: a guilt at spying and overhearing acts too sad, furtive and brutal for a style of lush affirmation.

Jonathan Clark on conspiracy, faction and faith

Treason does its worst

THE GUNPOWDER PLOT
Terror and Faith in 1605
Antonia Fraser
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20
ISBN 0 297 81348 X

Since Vatican II, the Roman Catholic laity in England have come out of the shadows. Formerly condemned to a public stance of reticence and frustrated loyalty, they now make distinguished and honourable contributions in all walks of life. And yet they have an image problem.

For there is no denying the fact that England's recusant Catholics were long suspected of being, in the last resort, willing to overthrow the State by armed force: suspected of harbouring a priestly fifth column of organised activists; suspected of having Papal sanction for any means to the desired end of England's reconversion; suspected of concealing their disloyalty behind the Jesuitical doctrine of equivocation. One event, annually commemorated, summed it all up: Gunpowder Plot.

Even in Europe's great age of political assassinations, this would have been a spectacular coup: at one stroke to wipe out the monarch, royal family, nobility, judiciary, episcopate and Commons. By comparison, the IRA looks like a bunch of clumsy provincials. So what do modern Catholics do with Guy Fawkes?

For the last century, they have argued the toss. Who was behind the plot: the Jesuits? The Catholic community? A tiny group of freelance extremists? Or was it a put-up job, arranged by the Government's *agents-provocateurs* to discredit their victims, just as the Reichstag fire in 1933 allowed the Nazis to suppress the Communists? Pertinacious Jesuits, kindly Benedictines and anxious Catholic laity fill Lady Antonia's bibliography, all agonising over the same problem.

Plausibly, in this eloquent and moving book, she opts for the "freelance extremists" interpretation. She urges that the Catholics wished to be loyal subjects of James I at the outset of his reign, and expected to be rewarded with toleration. They were "cruelly disappointed" when this peace process failed to deliver the outcome they expected.

Catholics, her account runs, had been denied civil rights under Elizabeth I, like an ethnic minority that the regime did its best to cleanse. Denied equality, some Catholic men found an outlet in the armed struggle. Even then, only the Jesuits were committed to convert England or die in the attempt: other Catholic priests, known as Appellants, preferred compromise. Surely, asks Lady Antonia, the backlash against Catholics was overdue? The Gunpowder Plot was, after all, as John Grant said at his trial, "a conspiracy intended but never effected".

Fawkes emerges here as "a kind of soldier-monk", an idealistic, clean-living crusader. Catesby was "noted for his religious dedication". "In their own estimation, these men were not assassins; they were fighters in a holy cause." They were, at least, disturbed that Catholic peers would die in the explosion, along with Protestants, although their doubts were resolved for them by Catholic doctrine: the "double-effect" principle, expounded by Father Garnet to Catesby in July 1605 and later to Garnet's horror) acted on.

Lady Antonia does not mince words. The plot was real. "It was a violent conspiracy involving Catholic fanatics." Yet at the same time, circumstantial evidence suggests that Robert Cecil, Earl of Salisbury and the King's first minister, had advance warning and carefully allowed the plot to develop. Thanks to government manipulation, the enterprise of a handful of hotheads, as Lady Antonia

describes it, was represented as a massive Jesuit conspiracy. Yet this account presents other evidence, too. However desirous the English Catholic laity for peace, international Catholicism stuck to its principles. From Rome, the leading English Jesuit, Father Robert Persons, had published a tract in 1595 which called into question James's right to the English crown. Continental claimants could always be found with ancient titles. James VI of Scotland only secured a quiet succession as James I of England by leading Rome to believe that he was himself on the verge of conversion (his wife, Anne, had already taken that step).

If the Catholic cause was binerily divided between the adherents of the bullet and the ballot box, Appellant priests, too, were capable of engaging in conspiracy. In 1605 Father Henry Garnet, SJ, knew of the atrocity about to be perpetrated at Westminster: claiming the secrecy of the confessional, he did not reveal it to the Government.

Fawkes's conspiracy was only one of many, for Catholics had non-negotiable demands. James I could only keep them on board by fudging the issue. When they realised this, a minority of Catholics reacted with a violent backlash. The majority of the Catholic community were appalled, but protected the minority; and the majority paid a heavy price for so doing.

Is terrorism justified in a good cause? Would the plotters now be hailed as freedom fighters, had they been successful? Were Catholic recusants the real victims in a totalitarian regime? "Brave, misguided men" is as far as Lady Antonia will go in judging the conspirators.

The Catholic laity have recently done a good job in turning Thomas à Becket, Thomas More and John Henry Newman into folk heroes, depicting them as martyrs for conscience, free speech and liberal pluralism (the historical reality was somewhat different). It might be harder to rehabilitate terrorists. But it is a tribute to this candid, open-handed book that their moral dilemmas are convincingly reconstructed for all to see.

So what are modern Catholics to make of it all? Antonia Fraser's dedication reveals their lasting disagreement: "For Edward who would have defended them: Lucy who would have hidden them; Paloma who would have succoured them in exile." How much has really changed?

ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM, OXFORD

Terrorist or soldier-monk? Guy Fawkes entering Parliament

THE TIMES CROSSWORDS

Due to increased costs a small handling charge (circa 25p per item) is included in the prices below for all UK and EU customers
Rest of the World add £1 per item
Sterling or US\$ only (£1=US\$1.50)

BOOKS at £6.25 (Penguin) (240 puzzles)
The Times Concise Crosswords - Book 2

BOOKS at £4.25 (Penguin)
The Times Crosswords - Books 3,6,8,10,11,12,13
The Sunday Times Crosswords - Books 3,6,9

BOOKS at £3.75 (Times Books)
The Times Crosswords - Book 18
The Times Concise Crosswords - Books 4,5
The Sunday Times Crosswords - Books 11,12
The Sunday Times Concise Crosswords - Books 1,2,3

BOOKS at £3.25 (Times Books)
The Times Two Crosswords - Books 3,4
The Sunday Times Concise Crosswords - Book 5

The Times Quiz Book 1996 £4.75
with more than 2000 entertaining questions
The Times Computer Crosswords
by David Akenhead

For IBM PCs (IMS Dos) and Acorn RISC OS range
including HELP levels and TEAM OPTION on 3.5" diskette
(Circa 60 crosswords per title)

The Times Crosswords - Titles 1 to 19
The Times Concise Crosswords - Titles 3,4,5,6
The Times Two Crosswords - Titles 1,2,3,4
The Sunday Times Crosswords - Titles 1 to 13
The Sunday Times Concise Crosswords - Titles 1 to 5
The Sunday Times Mephisto Crosswords
The Times Jubilee Puzzles 1932-1987
ONLY £10.25 per title inc.VAT

We also offer a wide range of other
Publications and a fast, efficient service.
Please send SAE for details

Please send cheques or postal orders
(no credit cards) payable to

Akom Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW
Enquiries: 0181 852 4575 (24 hours)
Delivery up to 8 days (UK)

OBSERVING the 14-year-old heroine of Edna O'Brien's *Down by the River* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £15.99, ISBN 0 297 81806 6), a barrister decides "there is really no such thing as youth, there is only luck". In retrospect, the country girls of O'Brien's early novels were very lucky indeed. In *Down by the River* adult society is a trap, and the sensual language which describes their landscape a web which binds characters and reader into a logic of madness and greed.

Mary is the only child of a small farmer and part-time horse breeder. The fertile countryside in which he sexually abuses her is a much more modern Ireland than this author has previously described, a mist of verdant beauty concealing abandoned

cars and discarded rubbish. When Mary becomes pregnant, her community is more knowing than it will admit: neighbours, teachers, Gardaí and friends close their eyes to the obvious culprit, pushing her back upon old uncertainties of family and home.

Mary's flight to England for an abortion is stopped by a court injunction, and the child becomes a political football in a legal game of order and rights. Her further abuse by public debate is reminiscent of the "X Case", the legal battle which tore Irish society apart in the late 1980s and may have finally forced it to grow up.

Material like this is harrowing, and Edna O'Brien does

nothing to soften the pain. Playful Joycean language contrasts with the loneliness and polite behaviour which help to ignore unpleasant truths. The story is told in quick, concentrated moments, beginning with a kaleidoscope of rape, school, home and the coupling of a mare and stallion; all congeal inside the girl's confused head as the knowledge of conception grows.

About her, knowing adults and media may hint at any horror with nods and winks, a secret language which contrasts with their easy banter. When the father half admits his crime, a friend quips "Let down by the fool of a Mickey — and they call women the

weaker sex!" Such dialogue lifts this story out of the clichés about Irish hypocrisy. A debate between a group of militant right-to-life members and an eccentric liberal hops wonderfully between logic, heresy and sheer lunacy. A zealot describing the horror of abortion to a group of housewives is horribly funny.

O'Brien's ear is tuned for such characters. But her exchanges between Dublin barristers sound slightly tinny, and their arguments over dinner in the King's Inns or with family members reduce each to a mere representative of moral beliefs and human contradictions.

Perhaps O'Brien is asking

them to explain more than they need to. The country she has returned to examine still seethes with anomalies, old and new. But the dangerous ignorance which surrounded her first green-eyed Irish girls has quite disappeared. Newspapers and magazines informing Mary about incest and abortion, as well as the television and radio stations which endlessly discuss such subjects have dragged Ireland into the real world.

In the end, the more interesting contradictions come from the author herself. Instead of celebrating the victory of free thought, she continues to find bogies behind every haystack. That naked fear

denies the healing optimism of youth and presents life as a survival course. This is at odds with her constant homages, via *Ulysses* and *Dubliners*, to the great liberator, James Joyce. The impression left is rather of Dylan Thomas gloom: a guilt at spying and overhearing acts too sad, furtive and brutal for a style of lush affirmation.

AI SLING FOSTER

NEW AUTHORS
PUBLISH YOUR WORK
ALL SUBJECTS CONSIDERED
Fiction, Non-Fiction, Biography,
Religion, Poetry, Children
AUTHORS WORLDWIDE INVITED
WRITE OR SEND YOUR MANUSCRIPT TO
MINERVA PRESS
2 Old Brompton Road
London SW7 3DL, England

TODAY'S

TODAY'S FIXTURES

CRICKET

Third Cornhill Test match
11.0 a.m. and 1.0 p.m. 90 overs match
THE OVAL: England v Pakistan

Britannic Assurance
county championship
11.0, last day of four. 104 overs match
COLCHESTER: Essex v Gloucestershire

CARDIFF: Glamorgan v Kent
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Hampshire

NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Sussex

TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Surrey

WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Warwickshire

HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire v Lancashire

THIRD UNDER-19 TEST MATCH:
Ireland v Wales
FOOTBALL

Nack-off 7.30 unless stated

European Cup Winners' Cup
Qualifying rounds: 1st leg
Hk Brann (1) vs Steinkjoten (2) @ 6.00
Farsund (0) vs Red Star Belgrade (0)
Rudolfshagen (0) vs Borussia Dortmund (0)
Manschnicht (1) @ 11.30
Sport Prague (1) vs Glentworth (2)

PONTINS LEAGUE: Premier division
middlesbrough (1) Liverpool (7) 1-5; Exeter
City (1) Manchester City (1) 1-1; Ipswich
Town (0) Villa v Swansea (1) 1-1; Leeds
Utd v Coventry v Huddersfield (1) 1-1
Sheff Wed v Sheff Utd (1) 1-1; LEAFS
CUP: Section F: St James's Park v
Section A: Carlisle v Grimsby (1) 1-0
Section G: Alfrington v Lincoln. Section
Droghda v Dunshaugh (7) 4-5

RUGBY LEAGUE

HAIFAFA STUDENT WORLD CUP: Q
A: Kazakhstan v South Africa @ Rye
House, 7.30. Tickets £10. Embassy 2

RUGBY UNION

WELSH MATCHES: Rhosneigr v Sarni
12.0. Llanelli v Munster 6.30

OTHER SPORT

CYCLING: Sky Sports grand prix
Rochester

GOLF: British women's amateur stroke
play championship, 12.00

SPEEDWAY: Premier League: London
Cowboys (7) @ Middletonheath (8) 1-0
@ 7.30. Tickets £10. Embassy 2
Swansea Stars of Anglia (0) Ipswich (7) 0-1

Greenwich, V800
Heythrop Col. V801, V850, V

King's Col. V800 V870

Lampeter, V800, VL88, VV
QV5N, QVM8, VVBC
Lod. 3816

LSU Southampton, V800
Manchester, V820, V840, V816
Newcastle, V820, V840, V849, V
Roehampton Inst, V800, VY93
Sheffield, V820
Southampton, V887
St Andrews, V808
St Mark and St John Col, V
V803, V815, V800
St Mary's Univ Col, V801,
V881, VQ88, QV58, CV18
Westminster Col, V880, V840
Wolverhampton, V800, V401

**TOURISM/HOTEL
MANAGEMENT**

Aberystwyth, P700
Birmingham Col of Food, Tour
& Creative Studies, PN71, X866
Bolton Inst, P700,
Bournemouth, P700
Brighton, P700
Buckinghamshire Col, P779,
0078
Central Lancashire, TP97, P70
Clamington, N740, X860
Colleges of Caeredigion, P700
Herefordshire Col, FX78
Herefordshire, P700
Lincs & Humberside, P700,
P702
Luton, P700
London, 06X8, FX78, P
P777,
Northampton, P701, P700
Queen Margaret Col, P700
South Bank, P700, PL78
Sussex, P700, P700,
Univ of Scarborough, XP87
Westminster, PK74, PK76
Wolverhampton, P700

TOWN PLANNING

Cardiff, K446
Manchester, K400
Newcastle Hallam, K440
South Bank, K440, K458
Westminster, K460, K468

TRANSPORT

Aston, N920, N921
 Southampton Inst, N925
URBAN STUDIES
 Bolton Inst.
 Cardiff, K446
 Exeter Hill, K460, M900
 Kingston, N800
 Leeds Met, K464
 Lord John Moores,
 Northumbria, K470, K471
 Sheffield Hallam, K461, N
 W110, K460
 Westminster, K461, K469

**VISUAL
 ARTS/STUDIES**
 Brighton, V400
 Central England,
 Cheltenham & Gloucester, W
 L10, W911, W918, W978, W
 MW99
 Cumbria, W150
 Dartington, W430, W4NC, W4
 W27, W438
 De Montfort, W300
 Middlesex, V400P
 Roehampton Inst, W150, PW52
 Staffordshire,
 Salford, W100
 Uni Col Scarborough, W2Y1, W
 W273, W2N1, W2G1

**WELSH / WELSH
 STUDIES**
 Lampeter, Q520, Q512, VQ
 Swansea, Q520, Q5N1, Q
 Q5M3, Q5S7, Q5Q5, QV81
 Trinity Col, Carmarthen,
 QV5W, Q511, QO3N, QO35, Q
 QW54, QV5S, QV51

WOMEN'S STUDIES
 Anglia, VM49, NM19, PM39, L

GM36, VM79, RM18, LM99, RM
 MC29, VM10, RM59, M
 MM10, LM39, RM49
 Bangor, MQ93, MR91
 MB92, MV91, MV98, MR9F
 Bolton Inst., *
 Bradford, LM49
 Central Lancashire, MQ93.*
 Cheltenham & Gloucester, M
 MQ93, MV91, MV97, MV98, M
 CM93, MV91, MV97, MV98, M
 De Montfort, Y300
 Dundee, K420
 East London, *
 Edge Hill, LM39, MP93, M
 LW34, MQ93, MV91
 Epsom, RM93
 Hull, *
 Kingston, MQ93, RM19, M
 Leeds, MP93, LM93
 Lampeter, *
 Leeds, M900
 Liverpool John Moores, *
 LMS, M900
 North London, *
 Middlesex, Y400
 Nottingham Inst., M903, *
 Sheffield Hallam, M903
 Staffordshire, *
 Sunderland, *
 West of England, M903
 Wolverhampton, Y401, M900

* denotes modular scheme
 a variety of subject com-
 binations. Contact institutions
 for details.

Compiled by James Ashton
 Bloom, Cariona Davies,
 Dibble and Chris Hamilton

CRICKET

Lesson must be learnt from black day at Lord's

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE old place has never seen a day like it. A drugs case and a disgraced cricketer before lunch was bad enough but Tuesday at Lord's took on nightmarish proportions when a frenzied crowd scoured a schoolboys' match with such wild behaviour that the Grace Gates had to be thrown wide to admit a stream of waiting police vans.

Write the script of the day and it would be thrown back as unrealistic. Cricket is not supposed to have characters like Ed Giddins and it is certainly not supposed to have a drugs problem. Add on the notion of an under-15s game producing pitch invasions and a field violence of a type no English Test match has stimulated and the whole thing seems preposterous.

Somewhat, though, it did all happen and the repercussions are now being assessed. Cricket has difficulty with anti-social behaviour; it does not expect to confront it. Yesterday, it had no choice.

At Lord's, MCC conducted an informal inquiry into the crowd disorder during and after the game between the teenagers of India and Pakistan. Shock was the principal emotion, as expressed by the secretary, Roger Knight. "It's very worrying and probably unprecedented, but how can you expect schoolboys to spoil a schoolboy game?"

Knight was unable to offer any explanation other than the traditionally fierce hostility between followers of India and

Pakistan. Entry to Lord's was free on Tuesday and London-based Asians flocked there in surprising numbers, bearing flags, replica shirts and a sorry disregard for standards. Knight is awaiting a full report on the incident from the police, who made a number of arrests after urgently summoning reinforcements. They arrived dramatically, their vehicles taking over the area behind the pavilion.

"We had a small police presence all day," Knight said, "but we did not have the number of stewards at ground level that we do for major games—in fact, it was only on Monday that we decided to use six. The crowd was slightly bigger than we had anticipated, but that in itself was no problem. It was the conduct that took us by surprise and I hope we will learn from it."

This might have been a refrain penned for Giddins, whose 19-month suspension was being absorbed yesterday at Hove. The committee of Sussex, his employers since he left school, met in the old pavilion to debate, among other things, whether the hand of help should be offered to their shamed last bowler. The chances are it will not.

By summarily terminating his registration, the Test and County Cricket Board has disowned Giddins. By suspending him for so long, it has also implied that he will not be welcomed back. As a means of making an example of him, this is highly effective but, as



David Lloyd and Michael Atherton direct operations during practice for the third Test match at the Oval yesterday

Surrey ready for latest test

BY SIMON WILDE

an appropriate penalty for

what is evidently a single

indication with a recreational

drug, as distinct from one

that would brand him a cheat,

it is savage.

A more appropriate ban would have been until the middle of next season—long enough to sting Giddins and deter others, but not so long as to drain him of incentive and, perhaps, drive him from the game. Sussex no longer officially employ Giddins but they could continue to look after him, just as Arsenal looked after Paul Merson.

If they were inclined, they could give him a job helping the groundsman for a year, while he kept fit playing club cricket. They could keep him from the clutches of the Sunday tabloids and refocus him on a cricket career of much promise, spoiled by one huge endorsement. But cricket, as I say, has a problem with anti-social behaviour.

Diary, page 16

DESPISE the expected

absence of Alec Stewart,

Graham Thorpe and Chris Lewis,

Surrey will be looking to pick

up the winning thread when

they meet Nottinghamshire in

the Britannia Assurance

County Championship at

Trent Bridge today.

The county has not played since their defeat by Essex in the NatWest Trophy semi-final last week, before which they had won 15 out of 18 county matches, a hot streak that took them to the top of the championship and AXA Equity & Law League tables.

Surrey now lie third in the championship but, with Derbyshire, the leaders, not playing and Kent, who are second, facing an awkward trip to Cardiff, they could regain first place this weekend. Heavily beaten in their past five

matches, Nottinghamshire

are a dispirited unit and have

little to play for in this

competition.

Surrey have been hit harder by international calls than any other county this summer, but the response of their squad has been impressive. The key has been the contributions made by stand-ins such as Benjamin, Ratcliffe and Shahid, all of whom will be in action today. Surrey have won their past four championship matches to coincide with a Test match.

Despite having not fully recovered from a calf strain, Whitaker returns to try to reignite the challenge of Leicestershire, who have slipped to fourth. They face Hampshire at Grace Road. Essex, who are fifth, make their annual excursion to Col-

chester and will be hoping for

their spinners to bring them

maximum points against

Gloucestershire. One of them,

Childs, 45, announced yesterday

that he is to retire next month.

□ Durham launched a belated attempt to avoid the ignominy of finishing bottom of the table with a rare display of purposeful batting against Somerset at Weston-super-Mare yesterday. They made 326 all out to add three batting points to the meagre 19 they had picked up before the visit to Clarence Park. David Cox, the off spinner, was unbeaten on 95 when the innings closed.

For Somerset, Graham Rose was also in fine form with figures of seven for 73 from 26.5 overs.

Scoreboard, page 40

How Fazal cut through the complacency

John Woodcock recalls a stirring Oval fightback to level a series 42 years ago

It is time to go back 42 years — to the Oval for the fourth and final Test match between England and Pakistan in 1954. For their first tour of England, the Pakistanis had struck the wettest summer since 1903, and that, inevitably, had made things very difficult for them, accustomed as they were to quite different conditions.

Yet it was because the rain had come to Pakistan's rescue in two of the first three Tests (they lost the other by an innings) that the series was still open when, on August 12, the sides took the field at the Oval. Had there been betting on cricket at the time, the odds on a Pakistan victory would have been unimaginable. It seemed a question not of whether England would win, only of how long it would take them.

They had not lost a home Test match for over three years, and the Oval was a minefield for visiting batsmen. To bowl for them, the selectors had at their disposal, Bedser, Statham, Trueman, Tyson, Bailey, Loader, Lock, Laker, Wardle and Appleby, and there were others, such as Gladwin, Jackson and Shackleton, who were very good. What riches, what infinite riches!

Within a month of the Oval Test match, England were due to set sail for Australia aboard the SS Orsova, accompanied by 18 journalists. Our thoughts had been centred on this for so much of the season that when, at the end of July, the selectors were dispersing after choosing the party for Australia, it had to be drawn to the attention of those concerned that they had yet to pick a side to engage Pakistan at the Oval. That, anyway, was the story. I cannot vouch for its authenticity, but the XI they eventually named to play at the Oval certainly hinted at complacency.

There was nothing the matter with the first five in the order — Hutton, Simpson, May, Compton, and Graveney — but Loader, McConnon and Tyson were given a game ahead of Bedser, Statham and Bailey on the grounds that, as they were going to Australia, they would benefit from the experience. Tyson had scarcely been lassoed, let alone broken in, and Bailey's absence meant that Evans had to bat at No 6, which was too high for him.

Most importantly, Pakistan were left with the bowler best suited to exploit a slow, rain-affected Oval pitch, the peerless Fazal Mahmood, and it was he, with figures of 12 for 99, who duly won them a low-scoring match. Pakistan thus squared a series in which their most successful batsman, Hanif Mohammad, scored 183 runs in his eight innings at an average of 22.62, and only three others totalled

more than 112 in the four Test matches.

Fazal's pace was more gentle medium than medium fast. Primarily a cutter of the ball (though he could also swing it), he had learnt his craft on matting pitches in Pakistan, some of coir, some of jute.

It was a surface that gave added purchase to the ball. As a bowler of the leg cutter he had to be up there alongside S. F. Barnes and Alec Bedser, and days would pass without his bowling a long hop or a full toss. He was charming and very handsome with it, big, strong and pernickious.

The slowest day's cricket in Test history was on the mat at Karachi in October 1950, when Fazal and Khan Mohammad, bowling under test for 80 in 53.1 overs, and Pakistan were 15 for 2 at close of play. Keith Miller remembers it as the most absorbing day of his career.

Having seen Neil Harvey take an hour to get off the mark, Miller decided to blaze away, and with 21 in 20 minutes he was Australia's highest scorer. "We'd just been made to look like bunnies by Jim Laker in England," he says. "So I thought, 'jigger it, I'm not going to let that happen again'."

Fazal's 13 wickets for 114 runs in 75 overs at Karachi rate every bit as highly with Miller as Laker's 19 wickets for 90 runs in 68 overs at Old Trafford. "Fazal was something else," he says.

"The ball would either pitch outside the off stump and go over your left shoulder, or pitch outside the leg stump and go over your right shoulder. Laker was marvellous, but Fazal was a master."

The principle governing the selection of the England side for that Test match of 1954, seemed much less outlandish then than it would today. Even the choice of McConnon ahead of Laker in the party for Australia was greeted with no special outrage, nor the omission of Trueman, though it is harder now to understand why not. McConnon was said to have outbowed Laker when Glamorgan became one of the few sides to beat Surrey at the Oval in those days, and Trueman had been blotted his book in the West Indies in the winter of 1953-54.

"Pass the salt, Gunga Din," addressed to a local official at a dinner for the MCC side was reputed to be Trueman's felony, and deference was certainly never a habit with him. In retrospect, though, I am sure he was hard done by. He was a great bowler and patriot, and the peoples' favourite. But the game came much more under the aegis of MCC then, and, as a result, it was more urbanely administered than it is now. Even Trueman himself might agree that it was the healthier for it.

GOLF

Ballesteros warns his Ryder Cup hopefuls

FROM MEL WEBB IN STUTTGART

THIS is the last week of peace, the last week before the hype begins, the last week, in fact, before the whole, emotive hoopla that is the battle for Ryder Cup selection starts — or it should have been. Except that yesterday the peace was shattered by the Europe team captain, who delivered an early lecture to those who would play for him.

The man to whom Europe will be looking at Valderrama in September next year will be Severiano Ballesteros. He will be making his first appearance as captain and, from his tone, he is expecting 100 per cent commitment and more from his men. "This is a clear message to everyone to qualify for the team," he said at the Nippenburg course, where the German Open starts today. "I don't want the team to qualify just by money. I want them to be in form as well."

Not a scintilla of equivocation there, and Ballesteros continued on the theme as he set about burning the ears of Nick Faldo, who has played most of his golf in the United States for the better part of two seasons. "I would like Faldo to come over to Europe to play in some of the better tournaments which will help him to qualify," Ballesteros said. "Everybody has to understand that we are not in the same

position as 15 years ago — there are a lot of new players coming through, and they are going to be pushing hard for places."

"I want all the top players to try to play their way in. They need to make an effort to qualify. Otherwise, if I see someone else around in good form, they may not get picked. Some players may think that it doesn't matter whether they qualify or not and that they will be picked in any case. They might be in for a shock."

Ballesteros, whose own game continues to all him, will be hoping for better things at Nippenburg. Bernhard Langer and Ian Woosnam are here, but Colin Montgomerie, whose father is ill, has withdrawn.

THE LEADING 100 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET GAME

Pos	Team (Player's name)	Pts	24	Caroline C (A Lockhart)	14984	52	Duck Donald (H Paul)	14615	76	Heaven's Fourth XI (RJ Walk)	14443
1	Edwards Gears 2 (J Eaton)	16244	25	Barbieri Rangers (JS Hutchinson)	14983	53	Memo Walker's XI (A Wright)	14613	77	Kali's Conifers 5 (N Kabi)	14436
2	Edwards Gears 2 (J Eaton)	15633	26	Barbieri Rangers (JS Hutchinson)	14983	54	Memo Walker's XI (A Wright)	14613	78	D J N 6 (DJ Meach)	14436
3	Opportunity 3rd XI (Stewart)	15182	27	Hollocks (M Ward)	14903	55	Collyer Three (M Lord)	14581	79	Miles 2 (N Evans)	14436
4	Edwards Gears 2 (J Eaton)	15175	28	Cheshire (M Roberts)	14885	56	Berne's Altons 11 (BE Howes)	14580	80	Johns Boys 5 (M Jones)	14436
5	Opportunity 3rd XI (Stewart)	15064	29	Comet's Ball 2 (D Blackman)	14882	57	Lyndes Loosers (J Tait)	14580	81	The Humble (J Davenport)	14418
6	Opportunity 3rd XI (Stewart)	15039	30	Alakus (M Ward)	14875	58	Hunt 4 (D1000 F J Hunt)	14572	82	Teddy Four (B Stone)	14405
7	Edwards Gears 2 (J Eaton)	14988	31	G B First XI (G Brooks)	14869	59	Webb's Worries (AR Howes)	14565	83	Pomridge County (C Hunt)	14408
8	Teddy 3 (B Bear)	14986	32	Wig's Worries (A Wigley-Jones)	14867	60	Hunt 4 (D1000 F J Hunt)	14564	84	Wendies Walker (AR Howes)	14348
9	The Ten Machine (N Kabi)	14982	33	Collyer 2 (M Lord)	14861	61	Sally Med Wicket (J Tracy)	14564	85	Kali's Conifers 5 (N Kabi)	14348
10	Wokingham Wanderers (D Hunt)	14944	34	Tall's Tigers (J Short)	14850	62	Thirby Bob (AZA Ghani)	14538	86	Deeds Demons (D Tait)	14338
11	Tonbridge Town (C Hunt)	14912	35	Freddie Team (P Price)	14845	63	Hunt 4 (D1000 F J Hunt)	14532	87	Rogers Second XI (RE Merri)	14376
12	The Run Runners (A Tait)	14912	36	The Grubbers (H Hunt)	14845	64	Webb's Worries (AR Howes)	14532	88	Gladwin's (D Fungley)	14367
13	Primrose (C Hunt)	14912	37	Tamworth (A Hunt)	14818	65	Eastbrook Wanderers (P Rowling)	14519	89	Wendies Walker (AR Howes)	14348
14	K P Altons 3 (RR Pate)	14912	38	Oversey 4 (M Lord)	14814	66	Reckless Wanderers (P Rowling)	14519	90	Wendies Walker (AR Howes)	14348
15	Caroline C (A Lockhart)	14912	39	July Lady's 4 (Mallett)	14811	67	Reckless Wanderers (P Rowling)	14519	91	Wendies Walker (AR Howes)	14348
16	Caroline C (A Lockhart)	14912	40	Hunt 4 (D1000 F J Hunt)	14811	68	Early Birds 3 (M Whitley)	14478	92	Wendies Walker (AR Howes)	14348
17	Kali's Conifers 5 (N Kabi)	14912	41	Star Wars 3 (Z A)	14808	69	Early Birds 3 (M Whitley)	14478	93	The Lyndes (D Tait)	14297
18	Wendies Walker (AR Howes)	14912	42	Star Wars 3 (Z A)	14808	70	Wendies Walker (AR Howes)	14478	94	Teddy 3 (B Bear)	14297
19	Wendies Walker (AR Howes)	14912	43	Star Wars 3 (Z A)	14808	71	Wendies Walker (AR Howes)	14478	95	Amphetamine Kids (M Evans)	14276
20	M C M (M Powell)	14912	44	Star Wars 3 (Z A)	14808	72	Wendies Walker (AR Howes)	14478	96	Amphetamine Kids (M Evans)	14276
21	Opportunity 3rd XI (Stewart)	14912	45	Star Wars 3 (Z A)	14808	73	Wendies Walker (AR Howes)	14478	97	Amphetamine Kids (M Evans)	14276
22	Caroline C (A Lockhart)	14912	46	Star Wars 3 (Z A)	14808	74	Wendies Walker (AR Howes)	14478	98	Amphetamine Kids (M Evans)	14276
23	Caroline C (A Lockhart)	14912	47	Star Wars 3 (Z A)	14808	75	Wendies Walker (AR Howes)	14478	99	Amphetamine Kids (M Evans)	14276
24	Caroline C (A Lockhart)	14912	48	Star Wars 3 (Z A)	14808	76	Wendies Walker (AR Howes)	14478	100	Amphetamine Kids (M Evans)	14276

48 Jones Boys One (M Jones)

14635

49 Have Balls Of A Time (JR Stanley)

14634

50 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

51 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

52 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

53 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

54 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

55 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

56 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

57 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

58 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

59 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

60 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

61 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

62 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

63 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

64 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

65 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

66 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

67 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

68 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

69 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

70 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

71 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

72 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

73 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

74 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

75 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

76 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

77 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

78 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

79 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

80 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

81 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

82 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

83 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

84 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

85 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

86 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

87 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

88 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

89 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

90 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

91 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

92 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

93 Collyer Three (M Lord)

14625

94 Collyer Three (M Lord)

1

Pleat refuses to read too much into sound start

Arsenal directors in for rough ride

Ball has his back to the City wall

Moodie makes running at Conwy

The source said that the union accepted the matter had to be resolved urgently and that it was confident that the players would stay in Scotland.

Misfit Brolin joins FC Zurich on loan

Redknapp assures Future of his West Ham future

The source said that the union accepted the matter had to be resolved urgently and that it was confident that the players would stay in Scotland.

**Your last chance to join
the race for the
£50,000 prize.
See the special
four-page guide**



Redknapp: waiting for Futre to regain fitness

Mad couch disease can damage your health

One of the toughest moves in sport is the one needed to turn a competitor into a spectator — mainly because most players have got more sense. So there is no great mystery behind the announcement by Linford Christie in Gateshead that he is still hanging in there to compete at top level next season. He is simply too proud of the shape he is in to sit it out in the stands like his.

He will be criticised for hanging in there too long, and for daring to sprint at the age of 37 — but good luck to him.

He is not the only one reluctant to join the spectating classes. Peter Shilton, who became the most-capped England football player during the 1990 World Cup finals, signed this week for West Ham United and said he wants to play top-level football until he is 50. If he makes it, he will equal the feat of fitness-fanatic Sir Stanley Matthews, who could still walk into his first-team place at 50.

And, down at Hickstead, the Brazilian rider, Nelson Pessoa, has won the showjumping Derby at the

age of 60 (an event he had last won 31 years ago).

These are all top sportsmen who have decided they would rather play than watch. They have taken a look at what they see in the stands, and decided this is not for them. Their fitness is too valuable, too hard won.

Hardly surprising, when you look at the average spectator. Who would want to trade the shape of a top-class competitor for the body of a typical fan?

'Men were not created to be spectators'

of those who watch sport, rather than those who play it.

They have issued a "Healthy Man's Action Pack" aimed at the football spectator and full of dire warnings about the effects of drink, drugs, cigarettes, junk food, no exercise and reckless sex. They reckon on the gap between the fitness of the players on the pitch and the fans in the stand has never been greater.

They have trotted out *Match of the Day* presenter Des Lynam and studio expert Alan Hansen, along with Peter



Beardsley to help to get their message home, and they have placed their advice on staying healthy in Premier League football magazines.

What they are recognising is that many a sportsman has always known — that spectating is by far the most dangerous sport there is.

The would-be weekend athlete is always being warned that he should have a health check before taking up any exercise or sport, but the truth is that what you really need is a health check before becoming a spectator.

One doctor warned at the start of this great summer of sport of a strange epidemic with no known cure. Dr Chris Steele labelled it "mad couch disease" and feared that it

could cause weight gain, increase the risk of heart disease and loss of sexual appetite, and create tension in the home.

Another perceptive observer, watching the American crowds turn out for the Olympics in Atlanta, described the Games as an event where the world's fittest performed for the world's fittest. There does seem to be something very strange in the idea of being so keen on sport that you spend endless hours watching other people taking exercise.

Of course, sport has always attracted spectators, but it was the advent of television that multiplied their number and the time spent watching throughout the world. Today, vastly more people watch their chosen sport on television rather than live, and they can spend many hours every week watching others take exercise while they take absolutely none at all.

Men, and particularly young men, were not created to be spectators. There are good reasons, of course, to watch champions at play. We can watch to learn how something is done. We can marvel at the perfor-

mance of the human body in its perfection. We can wonder at skill and stamina. But, ultimately, if we want to reap the benefits of sport we might be wise to get out there and do a bit ourselves.

We don't all have to be champions, or even competitors, but, as the Health Education Authority points out, there is a problem if young sports fans progressively eliminate physical activity from their normal daily living.

These days, when you go to a big football match, one of the most remarkable sights is that of the thousands of fans who turn up in replica team kit — dressed as if they half expect to be called on to play.

There is no doubting the commitment of these young men and women to their team. They worship and applaud the skill, strength and stamina of their chosen heroes. They want to be like them, and so they wear the gear to look like them. But they had better realise before it's too late that you can't buy fitness and health from the club shop.

JOHN BRYANT

Take a pair of borrowers

Wandering Minstrels, Radio 3, 10.00pm.

This opening segment of Geoffrey Smith's series about Gilbert and Sullivan is definitely — repeat definitely — not a sequence of Sullivan's music. Smith is too practised a highlights from their comic operas, though he does play musicologists to suit for such popular appeal, though he does play enough G and S excerpts to warm an addict's heart. Smith's brief in enough G and S excerpts to warm an addict's heart. Smith's brief in enough G and S excerpts to warm an addict's heart. Smith's brief in enough G and S excerpts to warm an addict's heart.

Wilde Belles, Radio 4 (FM), 2.00pm.

You must have wondered what happens to television "soap" actors when they're not required. The simple answer is that some turn to when they're not required. The simple answer is that some turn to when they're not required. The simple answer is that some turn to when they're not required. The simple answer is that some turn to when they're not required.

BOWLS

March parade fours title

MARCH Conservative became the first Cambridgeshire club in the 71-year history of the county to win one of the four main national titles when they beat Courfield, Carlisle, 20-18 in the English Bowling Association fours championship at Worthing yesterday (Gordon Allan writes).

Maurice Miller, Brian Baxter, Tony Merrell and Miller's son, Lee, led for most of the contest. With the score at 19-18 on the 21st end, their lead, Maurice Miller, drew a bowl within inches of the jack and Courfield could not dislodge it.

For David Taylor, partnered by his son, Trevor, Ken Johnston and Richard Sampson, it was the third defeat in a national final.

RUGBY UNION

Australia fixtures widen home rift

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND'S relationships with the other three home rugby unions, already frigid, will grow no warmer after the confirmation yesterday of reciprocal fixtures with Australia over the next six years. Moreover, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) is expected to announce shortly that similar arrangements with New Zealand are in place.

That this is the consequence of long-term planning may cut little ice with Scotland, Ireland and Wales, who will sever relationships with England this season unless the RFU agrees to joint negotiations over the broadcasting rights for the five nations' championship. Instead they will perceive England as falling into line with the plan promoted by

television interests for a global five-nations' competition, involving England, France and the three southern-hemisphere powers.

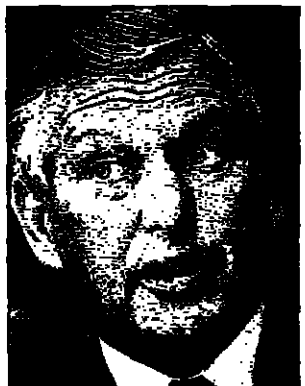
England will not play Australia during their visit to Britain this autumn but, instead, the two countries have agreed to play two international matches each year, starting in July 1997 and continuing to 2003, the year scheduled for the fifth Rugby World Cup. At that stage, the arrangement will be reviewed.

Plans to add England to the scheduled tour of Scotland and Ireland in November could not be sustained, John O'Neill, the Australian Rugby Union's chief executive, admitted. However, the Australians, allowing for a satisfactory

Johannesburg on July 5 and there would, presumably, be a brief hiatus before England take up their summer obligations.

The Australians would return to Twickenham in November or December next year, though Derek Morgan, chairman of the RFU national playing committee, emphasised that the fixtures would not form part of a broader championship, nor were they a consequence of the five nations' disagreement.

"This is a policy decision over something we have discussed since the early 1980s," Morgan said. "We have long wanted greater exposure to the southern-hemisphere nations. We have sent A teams to Australia and New Zealand, an under-21 team to Australia and the introduction of the professional era, though coincidental, has helped accelerate the process at senior level."



Hastie: new manager

financial agreement, will play Wales if the Irish Rugby Football Union agrees to move its international to November 23, thus leaving November 30 free for the touring side to play in Cardiff. That would cost Ireland the scheduled fixture with Munster.

The accord with Australia would mean that English players touring with the British Isles in South Africa next summer would move, virtually without stopping, straight into national duty. The final match that the Lions play is in



Ann Wild punches the air in triumph after Britain's 46-42 win over Germany in the basketball competition

Thatcher strikes gold after warm-up sprint

By ALIX RAMSAY

NOEL THATCHER won Great Britain's fifteenth gold medal at the Paralympic Games in Atlanta on Tuesday night, winning the B2 10,000 metres final in a world record time of 32min 20.75sec.

It was a busy night for Thatcher — an hour before he had been drafted in at the last minute to run in the 4 x 100 metres relay. Robbie Latham had had to pull out of the relay during the warm-up with a hamstring injury. Thatcher was going

through his final preparations on the warm-up track and was willing to fill the gap. It was hardly ideal especially as Thatcher has a stress fracture of the left shin.

However, once into the 10,000 metres, Thatcher, who prefers to run from the front, was able to hold off the challenge of Kikolski, from Poland. "I ran the first 18 laps feeling scared. I could sense that Kikolski was always behind me," Thatcher said. "It was like being stalked."

His next medal chance comes in the 5,000 metres tomorrow. Thatcher is the world champion — and then, provided his injury holds up, he will go for the marathon on Sunday.

Melanie Easter, the swimmer, helped Britain to fourth place in the medals table, winning the B2 400 metres freestyle, beating the mighty Trishcha Zorn, from the United States. Zorn is one of the greatest of the visually impaired swimmers and, on Sunday, won her fortieth Paralympic gold medal in a career stretching over 16 years. But, on Tuesday night, she could not match Easter, who took the gold in 5min 11.25sec. She did not know she had won until she asked someone the result as she got out of the pool.

In the shooting, Deanna Coates, from Camberley, won her third gold in her third Games, taking the standing air rifle title. Needing a score of 10.7 to win, Coates just snatched the medal with her final shot.

While the athletes are breaking records daily, the organisers in Atlanta are still struggling to get up to speed. In Barcelona, 1.5 million people watched the Games for free. In Atlanta, spectators have had to pay up to \$25 (£16.50) for admission with the result that the venues are at best half-full, at worst nearly empty. Attendances are improving gradually now that the cheapest ticket price has been dropped from \$15 to \$10.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 40

NINNYHAMMER

(a) A simpleton. Apparently from *ninny*, but the force of the second element is not clear. "I might have been a scholar, learnt my Grammar, / But I have lost it all, like a minnyhammer."

OTIUM

(b) The Latin word for "leisure, freedom from business, ease", much favoured by Horace and the Horatians. In occasional English use, especially in the phrase *otium cum dignitate*, leisure with dignity, dignified ease.

PATAS

(c) The red monkey (*Cercopithecus patas*) of West Africa. From the French *patas*, from a dialect of Senegal.

PITTACAL

(d) A dark blue solid substance obtained from the high-boiling portions of wood-tar. From the Greek *pitta* + *kalis* beautiful, *kalis* beauty. "Pittacal appears to have basic characters, for it is dissolved by acids and precipitated by alkalis."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Qh6! Kxf7 2 Re7+ Nxe7 3 Qh7! Ke8 (3... Kf6 is met the same way) 4 Qe7 mate

PRIZES INCLUDE DELIVERY TO EU CUSTOMERS (BEST OF THE WORLD ADD 10 PER ITEM) OF THE ITEMS LISTED. SEND SAE FOR FURTHER DETAILS. STERLING/DOLLAR CHEQUES ONLY. TIMES CROSSWORDS - Books, 3.65 to 13.45 each. Book 13.45. The Times Crossword - Book, 2.40 (puzzles) 10.25. Book 1 to 5 £3.75 each. The Times Two - Books 3.4 to 5.25 each. Also The Times Quiz Book 1996 £4.75. TIMES COMPUTER CROSSWORDS by David Almond (extra 10 crosswords per title). Titles are only £10.25 each (inc. VAT) and include SCUL & TEAM. HELP levels with conventions, spell checks, performance analysis and much more. For all IBM PCs and Acorn RISC OS Computers on 3.5 diskette including Times Crosswords Titles (10 titles) - The Times Computer Titles (10 titles) - The Times Two (5 titles) - Jubilee Edition 1992/93. The Sunday Times titles (various 28). Send cheques with order payable to Adam Ltd, 31 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Return delivery (UK). Tel 0181 552 4975. No credit cards.

Ruddles County Riddles.

No. 10. Prime Suspect

Brian "Sherlock" Berry

has a job in airport security at Staasted. Mostly it is routine stuff in England's green and pleasant land and David looks forward to that first flavoured pint of Ruddles County when he comes off duty each evening.

One day however it was different. "Sherlock"

Berry got a tip from an unimpeachable source that the lunch-time flight to Brussels might very well contain a

hijacker. The flight was about to board but "Sherlock" ordered its immediate cancellation. The passengers were detained in a high security area while "Sherlock" studied the passenger list. This included two or three family groups who were easy to eliminate, then 4 Euro MPs who were more of a problem. Others included some Irish businessmen, an American journalist, a French chef and a Hindu priest.

"Sherlock's" instinctive suspicions were confirmed when the now searily starving passengers were eventually served roast beef sandwiches for lunch — which everyone ate, without exception and some even asked for more.

a. Who did "Sherlock" identify as the prime suspect and why?

b. Was he right to celebrate with an extra pint of Ruddles County that evening?



© 1996 Ruddles County Riddles. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without permission in writing from Ruddles County Riddles.

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00am News (Brelina and Weather) 6.10am Farming Today 6.25am Prayer for the Day 6.30am Today and 7.25, 8.25, 9.25, 10.25, 11.25, 12.15 Thought for the Day 8.40 The Diary of a Nobody (4/5) (1) 8.55am Weather 9.00am News 9.05 The Moral Maze 10.00am Minor Adjustment (FM). The final part of the comedy about a family with a young daughter with Down's Syndrome 10.05 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Woman's Hour 10.50am Test Match Special: England v Pakistan (LW). Day one of the third Test from the Oval 11.30am From Our Own Correspondent (FM) with Chris Choe 12.00pm News: You and Yours (FM), with Chris Choe 12.25pm Staghair Faced (FM). Literary quiz chaired by Gill Pirah. With guests Joe Mola, Margaret Eaton, Sam Leith and John Robson 12.55am Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clavin 1.40 The Archers (FM) (1) 1.40 Test Match Special (LW) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00pm News: Wilde Belles (FM), See Choice 2.00 Test Match Special (LW) 3.00pm News: Afternoon Shift (FM) 4.05 Kaleidoscope at Edinburgh (FM). Live from the stage of the Puccini Theatre. Paul Allen plays host to 40 minutes of fast-moving reviews, interviews and performance 4.45pm Short Story: My Polish Teacher's (FM), by Helen Dunmore

5.00 PM (FM) 5.50 Shipping 5.55 Weather 5.55 Test Match Special (LW) 6.00am On This Day (FM) 6.30am First Impressions (FM). Pete McCarthy chairs the last of the series 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 A Degree of Uncertainty. In the final part of his inquiry into university expansion, David Walker asks if more graduates equals a better Britain 8.00 20/20: A View of the Century. John Tusa. Has the 20th century's commercialisation put an end to serious pleasures? (2/10) (1) 8.45 Twilight. Joanna Pennock goes in search of the nocturnal nightjar (3/5) 9.00 Does He Take Sugar? With Frederick Dove 9.30 Kaleidoscope at Edinburgh (1) 9.55 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lucif 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Washington Square. Tom Wilkinson reads literary James's story (3/10) 11.00 The Deep South: Deep Station Emerald. The final part of Joe Turner's historic undersea thriller. With Laurence Baines, Tom Georgeon and Lorelei King 11.30am On This Day (FM) 12.00 News and 12.27am approx Weather 12.30 The Late Book: Slougherhouse-Five, by Kurt Vonnegut. Read by Bob Sherman (4/10) (1) 12.40 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.9-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8. LW 948. LW 188 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100.1-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

No qualms, but an abundance of questions

If the quality of television were measured by one's desire to talk about it next day, last night's *Inside Story: Betrayal* (BBC1) would be rated as the best thing in months. If you didn't see it, well, throw another log on the fire and settle down. James Cohen's anecdotal film was one of those modern-morality tales, the equivalent of an up-market women's magazine feature, a composite of four real-life stories told by the participants, which tells a tale of moral outrage and asks in a whisper "You can hear that, can't you?" The requisite multiple-choice questionnaire was missing, but it was implicit. After all, if the morally blank behaviour of these people seemed perfectly all right to you (Mostly As), then *Betrayal* would be nothing. If you felt like weeping, and phoning people up to discuss the moral decline of private behaviour (Mostly Cs), *Betrayal* was very good indeed.

Nigel betrayed his wife Marie on her wedding day; Rob dumped Caroline when he won the Lottery; Alex conducted an affair with his wife's sister in the marital home; Michelle took her friend's teenage son as a secret lover. Nasty little stories, actually, which nobody would be proud of — but the point of them all was their ugliness, and the absolute, shocking absence of remorse shown in talking about them. Life's too short, these people said. If wives and husbands get hurt, you can't make an unmeted without you know, Nigel realised he had lost a friend by stealing his wife, but "That's the price of progress," he quipped. He was dropping in inapposite platitudes he had presumably picked up watching *Newsnight*.

When Carol took Alex away from her sister Janice, she had no compunction about it: "The only crime we committed was to fall in love," Huh. Janice discovered the

affair while the three were on holiday in Spain with their combined families. They came home at once, of course, because Janice was devastated? Oh, no. "We got on with our holiday," said Carol. "That holiday in Spain was the best I've ever had," said Alex, matter-of-factly. "The kids really enjoyed it, Carol really enjoyed it, and Janice enjoyed it up to a point." "What was going through Janice's mind?" said Carol, struck by this puzzling question from her unseen interviewer. "Well, I never asked her. So I don't know."

The issues raised by a programme such as *Betrayal* are numerous. Did the participants have any idea how callous they appeared? Were they encouraged to show bravado while privately racked with guilt? Somehow I doubt it. Rob dumped Caroline on receipt of his £1.4m Lottery win; his new girlfriend

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

(Julie) promptly left her husband to be with him. She broke the news in the shower. Rob and Julie made a perfect couple, actually, so safe and tight inside their shield of self-righteousness that if bullets were fired at them, they'd bounce.

Now clearly Rob had no obligation to share his winnings with Caroline, even though she was the mother of his two children. But to hear Julie trash Caroline because

she lived on a council estate — "She's a bit rough, and I'm not. I think I've got more values than her" — made my eyes pop out of my head. The insults were far worse than the injuries. "Rob has treated Caroline more than fair," she declared. "If it had been me, I wouldn't have given her half as much." Meanwhile Caroline — the woman with fewer values, apparently — summed up her own feelings about the outcome. "It just showed Rob had never really loved me," she said, simply. It certainly did that.

In the absence of that pesky questionnaire — which somehow comes about for inclusion at this point, doesn't it? I've got a pen ready and everything — I just keep wondering why anybody in television production bothers to make moral-choice drama any more, if the audience includes people such as Nigel and Debbie and Alex and Carol and Rob and Julie. What

does this lot make of *The Politician's Wife*, then? Juliet Stevenson doubles in agony, and Nigel says to Debbie: "Who pulled her chain?" and they both laugh. Winners and losers, that's all there is. That's the way the progress crumbles. That's the price of broken eggs.

Naturally, last night's other programmes paled alongside such vivid stuff. BBC1's *Mastermind* is something I hadn't seen in a while, and something I could safely assume was unwatched by Nigel and Debbie and Alex and Carol and Rob and Julie. Little had changed. It was good to see that "civil servant" and "local authority official" are still considered sufficient in description for the contenders; also that grey-blue V-necks still denote seriousness.

But what more can be said? From the audience participation

standpoint, the specialist round was as boring as ever: if you don't know the Greek vocabulary of beekeepers' equipment, there's little point guessing "Honeydew" (which, I'm sure I spotted a new tactic from the male contenders, which is to snap the answers back so rapidly that only Magnus Magnusson (and possibly some varieties of dog) can catch them. "Correct!" says Magnus, which only rubs it in.

Last night's winner scored 35 points, but all I heard him say was "Brrn" and "Fegg" and "Clwr". Momentarily he slipped out of fifth gear when he didn't know the name for the north-south bit of a cruciform church, at which point the rest of us got a chance. "Hoorah!" I yelled. "Transept!" In the absence of scoring mostly Cs ("You should get out more and stop worrying about other people's feelings"), at least it was something concrete to cling on to.

CHOICE

Inside Out: A Heart for Jo

Channel 4, 8.30pm

Joanne, 13, is a Down's syndrome child in need of a heart and lung transplant. The surgery is available but it seems no doctor in Britain is prepared to try it. Again and again we watch Jo's mother, the dour Mrs. Marion, pinning down British experts to ask why. Most start by patronising her (but not for long) and, interestingly, end up disagreeing with each other. But whatever reasons they offer the overall response is still the same: Down's? Forget it. In America, Marion meets Sandra Jensen, the first but so far only person with Down's to have had the operation and survived with flying colours. Money, morals (shouldn't "normal" patients get priority when there is a shortage of donor organs?) and much else go into this story. Meanwhile bubbly, likeable Jo and her nervous mum go on fighting.

Porkpie

Channel 4, 8.30pm

If you liked the late lamented *Desmonds* — and the follow-up series starring Ram John Holder as the laid-back, pork-pie-hatted pensioner — then you will welcome this new lot. Porkpie has, you'll recall, won £10 million in the lottery — such "wins" are beginning to spin off television material in all directions — and tonight he returns from Guyana, where news of his status has brought "claimants" hammering on his door. These include one Sexy Sheila the Potato Peeler and a duffer with a pork-pie hat of his own who insists he is his son. It has to be admitted, though, that user-friendly as old Porkpie is, his driver and general factotum Benji (Derek Griffiths) who raises most of the laughs. The opening scene, with Benji manipulating a traffic jam to music as he tries to reach Heathrow, is delightful.

Secret History: Konkordski

Channel 4, 9.00pm

If the title gives you a sense of déjà vu it's because the programme was withdrawn at the last minute (on July 18) out of deference to the American air crash. It's a tale of Cold War industrial spying writ large: how the Soviets, in the late 1940s, caught up with what they knew would be the world's first supersonic passenger jet — Concorde, an Anglo-French co-operative venture — and how this spying, and the triumphant creation of the Soviet's own Concorde, the Tu144 (beating ours by a nose) led to the death of six Soviet aircrew and eight French bystanders at the Paris Air Show of 1973. Until now the terrible crash of the Tu144 has never been satisfactorily explained. This documentary has a brave stab at it, producing an extraordinary thriller complete with a twist at the end.

Defence of the Realm: Harrier Force

BBC1, 10.00pm

"This sounded great — you know, up and down. Now I wouldn't fly any other way." That's one pilot's view of the remarkable Harrier jump jet, but this programme is more interested in the plane's bombing capabilities and what its like to be a "top gun" in One Fighter Squadron, the world's oldest military flying unit. "We want to kill people as fast as we possibly can," says one. "Is there still a code of honour?" asks reporter Peter Taylor. "I doubt it — not even if shooting down parachutes." The words "Operation Biting" are scratched on the notepad as Squadron One takes off on a precision bombing exercise. Bosnia is to follow and that posing happily ends without "collateral damage" (ie, killing civilians). The only tragedy comes when the gang-bro Sir Simon Jessett crashes (E23 million aircraft).

Elizabeth Cowley

6.00am GMTV (4812648) 9.25 Highway

Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (1)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

10.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext)

As HTV West except:

6.25pm-7.00 Wales Tonight (954454)

7.30-8.00 Welsh Learner of the Year (309)

10.40 The Sherman Family (933006)

11.10-11.40 The Big Story (866280)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

10.30am Film: Tell Me No Lies (40348700)

12.55 Emmerdale (6368342)

1.25-1.55 The Big Day (8305358)

1.55 Home and Away (58774261)

2.25 Sixth Sense (87102193)

2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (1518493)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5409667)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (52396)

10.45 Emergency! (957938)

11.15 Roadrunner (947551)

11.45 Prisoner Cell Block H (103006)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

10.30am Film: Tell Me No Lies (40348700)

12.55pm Home and Away (58774261)

1.25 Just a Minute (8305358)

1.55 A Country Practice (1518493)

2.20 Sixth Sense (87102193)

2.50-3.20 High Road (5081822)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5409667)

6.25 Central News and Weather (6038342)

10.40 London Bridge (833006)

11.10-11.40 Revelations (866280)

12.40am Carnal Knowledge (4066588)

1.40 Not Fade Away (8192694)

2.40 Flux (8493588)

3.40 The Crime Hour (2764615)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

10.30am Film: Tell Me No Lies (40348700)

11.00 Dogmatian (5000822)

11.25 Cross Combat (5010209)

11.55 Dungeons and Dragons (9353046)

12.55pm Emmerdale (6368342)

1.25 Home and Away (58774261)

1.55 Shortland Street (5409667)

2.20 Sixth Sense (87102193)

2.50-3.20 Doing It Up (5081822)

5.10 Home and Away (5409667)

6.00 Meridian Tonight (445)

6.30-7.00 Grass Roots (975)

10.40 Film: The Amityville Horror (8227877)

S4C

Starts: 6.30 Star Street (2449358) 7.00 The

Big Breakfast (27551) 8.00 California

Dreams (7348754) 9.25 The Secret World of

Alex Mack (7245613) 9.55 Hangin' with Mr

Cooper (6557006) 10.20 Earthworm Jim

(2180771) 10.45 Bill and Ted's Excellent

Journey (9330193) 11.10 Biker Mice from

Mars (8530771) 11.35 Insektors (1325880)

11.50 Dennis (8504803) 12.05pm Mark and

Mindy (6882716) 12.30 Travels to La Carte

(42919) 1.00 Slot Meithrin (37938) 1.30

Lucky Planet (34990) 2.00 Channel 4 Racing

From York (534754) 4.30 The Middle Ages

(9330193) 5.00 S. Pump: Superted (2193) 5.30

Countdown (174) 6.00 Newyddion (152193)

6.15 Heno (500700) 7.00 Pobol y Cwm

(955731) 7.25 Y Tri Dimensiwn (232174) 8.00

Ys Bygydd (8377) 8.30 Newyddion (4884)

9.00 The Politician's Wife (2351551) 10.15

Revelations (866280) 11.10 The Big Story

(866280) 12.15am Short Stories: Running Wild

(56323) 12.45 War Cries (55694)

12.55am Short Stories: Running Wild

(56323) 12.45 War Cries (55694)

12.55am Short Stories: Running Wild

(56323) 12.45 War Cries (55694)

12.55am Short Stories: Running Wild

(56323) 12.45 War Cries (55694)

6.35am Star Street (1) (2449358)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (27551)

9.00 California Dreams (1) (7348754) 9.25

The Secret World of Alex Mack (1) (7245613) 9.55 Hangin' with Mr

Cooper (1) (6557006)

10.20 Earthworm Jim (1) (2180771) 10.45

Bill and Ted's Excellent Journey (1) (9330193) 11.10 Biker Mice from Mars

(1) (8530771) 11.35 Insektors (1) (1325880) 11.50 Dennis (1) (8504803)

12.05pm Mark and Mindy (1) (6882716)

12.30 Travels to La Carte (1) (42919)

1.00 Sesame Street (1) (30174)

2.00 Channel 4 Racing from York. Brough

Scott introduces live coverage of the 2.05, 2.35, 3.10, 3.45 and 4.15 races (s)

(34754)



RUGBY UNION 42

Home and away games down under widen England rift

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND have won only one of their past 18 Test matches against Pakistan and there can be no confidence that this record will improve with the task that confronts them at the Oval today. "We have to search for a way to take 20 wickets," Michael Atherton, the captain, said, which was stating not only the obvious but also the improbable.

Bowling standards remain indifferent throughout the English game and a dispassionate assessment of the attacks in this final Test would strongly suggest that, if England do manage to take 20 wickets, Pakistan will do likewise, only more quickly.

Yet, with victory essential to square this disappointingly brief Cornhill series, an optimist could identify reasons for hope. England have won three times at the Oval in the 1990s, on each occasion when behind in a series. Pakistan, although requiring only a draw, have no heart for the negative and

OVAL TEST MATCH DETAILS

ENGLAND (from)
M.A. Atherton (captain)
A.J. Stewart (wicket-keeper)
I.H. Bell
G.P. Thorpe
J.P. Crawley
J.V. Kallis
C.C. Lewis
D.O. Salisbury
R.D. B. Croft
D.G. Cook
A.R. Cook
A.D. Murray

PAKISTAN (from)
Aamir Sohail
Saeed Anwar
Ijaz Ahmed
Inzamam-ul-Haq
Saim Malik
Asif Muzaffar
Shadab Kabir
Moin Khan
Rashid Latif
Wasim Akram
Muhammad Yousuf
Waqar Younis
Muhammad Aslam
Shahid Afridi

Umpires: M.J. Kitchin and B.C. Cooray (in London)
Weather: Bright, start, rain in evening. TV BBC1 10.55-12.00. BBC2 12.00-1.00. BBC1 1.35-3.25. BBC2 3.25-4.40. Highlights BBC2 11.15-12.00.

may yet self-destruct. Finally, and for the last time, there is the Illingworth factor.

Throughout his 40 years in cricket, Raymond Illingworth has had the capacity to overturn odds, often through sheer obstinacy. It would be in character if he ended his tenure as chairman of selectors with a victory and an unbeaten summer with which to disarm the appreciable number whose inclination is to wish him good riddance.

Illingworth, however, has become increasingly margin-

alised, not least through his own brooding disaffection with the game and its administrators. On recent evidence, his presence could not be guaranteed even if a valedictory lap of honour were demanded on Monday.

He did not appear at the ground yesterday, leaving the talking and planning to captain, coach and fellow selector, Graham Gooch, who had a longer bowl in the nets than most of those who will be charged with taking the wickets today, and generally busied himself in the manner of one whose involvement with the team is likely to increase.

David Lloyd, the coach, was as noncommittal as Atherton when it came to nominating the player who will miss out in England's eventual XI, but he did confirm that the character of the pitch had altered since the start of the week. By yesterday, presumably with more watering and less mowing, it had lost some of its hardness and gained a touch of green.

Atherton gave it a long, hard look, and even bowed an exploratory leg break before reporting: "It's not as hard as some we have seen here and it has a bit more grass." As it was also covered against the midday sun, it may not have quite the anticipated pace, certainly for the opening sessions, when England will hope to be batting.

The presence of even token grass, as opposed to bareness and cracks, may also dissuade England from the quantum leap to two spin bowlers, having fielded none at all at Headingley. Robert Croft was understandably fretting yesterday as his Test debut hung in the balance, but it will be a surprise if his off spin is not

sacrificed, giving another opportunity to Chris Lewis as one of four seam bowlers.

This would be a shame, for the rare presence of five specialist bowlers on what will be, essentially, a sound pitch, should encourage the use of old-fashioned balance. Ian Salisbury, who is certain to play his ninth Test, would also profit from having Croft's steadiness in support.

Alec Stewart spent part of the practice session keeping wicket to the two spinners, but most of it conducting a bewildering number of interviews in which, by his own admission, he used a lot of words to say very little. It is no secret that he would rather not be lumbered with the gauntlets again just when his batting has run into prime form, but he is not going to rock the boat.

Stewart is aware that he averages 47 in Test cricket when allowed to concentrate exclusively on his batting and only 25 when he keeps wicket. He is also unhappy about the possibility that a long stint in

the field would necessitate a drop down the order. But he is at least in the side, which looked pretty unlikely as recently as June.

One matter was settled yesterday, and it left Atherton decidedly cross. He contrived to lose the "private toss" for the third time in succession, which means the entire series will have been played with the Reader balls favoured by the Pakistanis for their tendency to reverse swing.

Armed with a Reader, and on a ground he may still consider his second home, Waqar Younis is the most likely match-winner. Pakistan must decide whether to include Mohammad Akram as a third seamer, or Saqlain Mushtaq as a second spinner, but they will certainly have only four main bowlers and will probably recall Rashid Latif because he is a superior wicketkeeper to Moin Khan. Now, there's a novel principle.

John Woodcock 39
Tough day for Lord's 39

the field would necessitate a drop down the order. But he is at least in the side, which looked pretty unlikely as recently as June.

One matter was settled yesterday, and it left Atherton decidedly cross. He contrived to lose the "private toss" for the third time in succession, which means the entire series will have been played with the Reader balls favoured by the Pakistanis for their tendency to reverse swing.

Armed with a Reader, and on a ground he may still consider his second home, Waqar Younis is the most likely match-winner. Pakistan must decide whether to include Mohammad Akram as a third seamer, or Saqlain Mushtaq as a second spinner, but they will certainly have only four main bowlers and will probably recall Rashid Latif because he is a superior wicketkeeper to Moin Khan. Now, there's a novel principle.

John Woodcock 39
Tough day for Lord's 39

the field would necessitate a drop down the order. But he is at least in the side, which looked pretty unlikely as recently as June.

One matter was settled yesterday, and it left Atherton decidedly cross. He contrived to lose the "private toss" for the third time in succession, which means the entire series will have been played with the Reader balls favoured by the Pakistanis for their tendency to reverse swing.

Armed with a Reader, and on a ground he may still consider his second home, Waqar Younis is the most likely match-winner. Pakistan must decide whether to include Mohammad Akram as a third seamer, or Saqlain Mushtaq as a second spinner, but they will certainly have only four main bowlers and will probably recall Rashid Latif because he is a superior wicketkeeper to Moin Khan. Now, there's a novel principle.

John Woodcock 39
Tough day for Lord's 39

the field would necessitate a drop down the order. But he is at least in the side, which looked pretty unlikely as recently as June.

One matter was settled yesterday, and it left Atherton decidedly cross. He contrived to lose the "private toss" for the third time in succession, which means the entire series will have been played with the Reader balls favoured by the Pakistanis for their tendency to reverse swing.

Armed with a Reader, and on a ground he may still consider his second home, Waqar Younis is the most likely match-winner. Pakistan must decide whether to include Mohammad Akram as a third seamer, or Saqlain Mushtaq as a second spinner, but they will certainly have only four main bowlers and will probably recall Rashid Latif because he is a superior wicketkeeper to Moin Khan. Now, there's a novel principle.

John Woodcock 39
Tough day for Lord's 39

the field would necessitate a drop down the order. But he is at least in the side, which looked pretty unlikely as recently as June.

One matter was settled yesterday, and it left Atherton decidedly cross. He contrived to lose the "private toss" for the third time in succession, which means the entire series will have been played with the Reader balls favoured by the Pakistanis for their tendency to reverse swing.

Armed with a Reader, and on a ground he may still consider his second home, Waqar Younis is the most likely match-winner. Pakistan must decide whether to include Mohammad Akram as a third seamer, or Saqlain Mushtaq as a second spinner, but they will certainly have only four main bowlers and will probably recall Rashid Latif because he is a superior wicketkeeper to Moin Khan. Now, there's a novel principle.

John Woodcock 39
Tough day for Lord's 39

the field would necessitate a drop down the order. But he is at least in the side, which looked pretty unlikely as recently as June.

One matter was settled yesterday, and it left Atherton decidedly cross. He contrived to lose the "private toss" for the third time in succession, which means the entire series will have been played with the Reader balls favoured by the Pakistanis for their tendency to reverse swing.

Armed with a Reader, and on a ground he may still consider his second home, Waqar Younis is the most likely match-winner. Pakistan must decide whether to include Mohammad Akram as a third seamer, or Saqlain Mushtaq as a second spinner, but they will certainly have only four main bowlers and will probably recall Rashid Latif because he is a superior wicketkeeper to Moin Khan. Now, there's a novel principle.

John Woodcock 39
Tough day for Lord's 39

the field would necessitate a drop down the order. But he is at least in the side, which looked pretty unlikely as recently as June.

One matter was settled yesterday, and it left Atherton decidedly cross. He contrived to lose the "private toss" for the third time in succession, which means the entire series will have been played with the Reader balls favoured by the Pakistanis for their tendency to reverse swing.

Armed with a Reader, and on a ground he may still consider his second home, Waqar Younis is the most likely match-winner. Pakistan must decide whether to include Mohammad Akram as a third seamer, or Saqlain Mushtaq as a second spinner, but they will certainly have only four main bowlers and will probably recall Rashid Latif because he is a superior wicketkeeper to Moin Khan. Now, there's a novel principle.

John Woodcock 39
Tough day for Lord's 39

the field would necessitate a drop down the order. But he is at least in the side, which looked pretty unlikely as recently as June.

One matter was settled yesterday, and it left Atherton decidedly cross. He contrived to lose the "private toss" for the third time in succession, which means the entire series will have been played with the Reader balls favoured by the Pakistanis for their tendency to reverse swing.

Armed with a Reader, and on a ground he may still consider his second home, Waqar Younis is the most likely match-winner. Pakistan must decide whether to include Mohammad Akram as a third seamer, or Saqlain Mushtaq as a second spinner, but they will certainly have only four main bowlers and will probably recall Rashid Latif because he is a superior wicketkeeper to Moin Khan. Now, there's a novel principle.

John Woodcock 39
Tough day for Lord's 39

SPORT

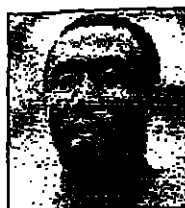
THURSDAY AUGUST 22 1996

Oval pitch could cost Croft his place as England try to draw series with Pakistan

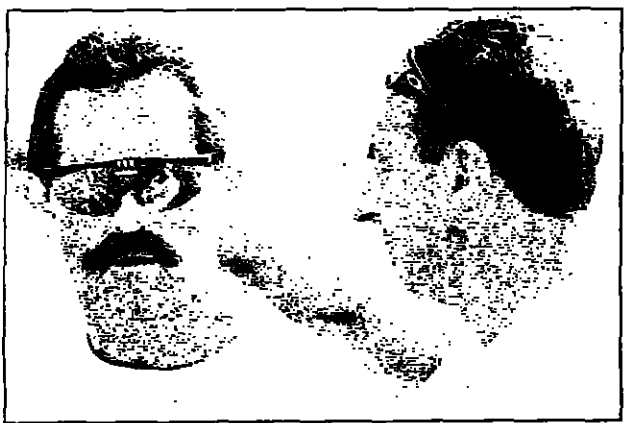
Twin spin attack may be put out to grass

BRYANT'S EYE 42

Breaking the age barrier to avoid mad couch disease



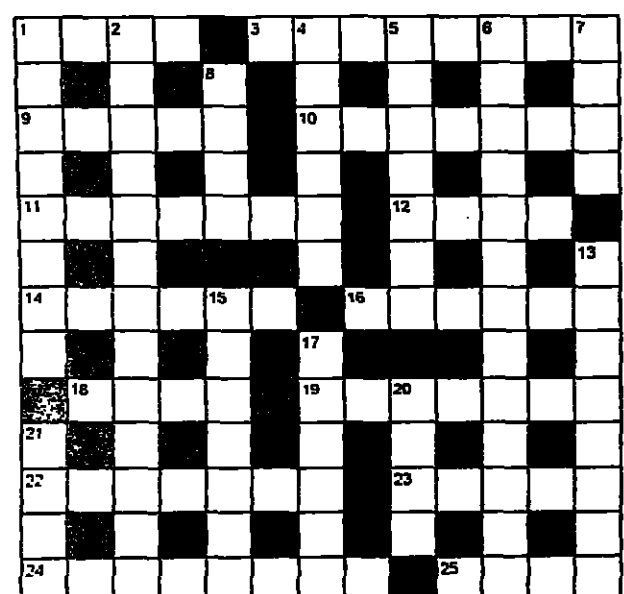
Croft practises in the Oval nets yesterday, hoping to book his place in the third and final Test, which starts today



Gooch, left, and Lloyd discuss England's strategy

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 867 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



- ACROSS**
- 1 (Oriental) eye powder (4)
 - 2 Devotee; a guerrilla (8)
 - 3 Astound (5)
 - 4 Warhorse: old serving-dish (7)
 - 5 Learned person (7)
 - 6 Colourless, depressing (4)
 - 7 Hurry Lillis (Bing) - (6)
 - 8 Porplex (6)
 - 9 Capital of Ukraine (4)
 - 10 Intellectual (clergy) (7)
 - 11 Little-known; to hide (7)
 - 12 Head skeleton (5)
 - 13 Lucrative, undemanding job (8)
 - 14 Fabric join (4)
- DOWN**
- 1 Soldier's shoulder-bag (8)
 - 2 Absurdly complicated (contraption) (5,8)
 - 3 Harmony; to bestow (6)
 - 4 Drivel (7)
 - 5 Theme song (9,4)
 - 6 Boring person (4)
 - 7 Have emotions: touch (4)
 - 8 Swinging bob on thread (5)
 - 9 Temporary camp (7)
 - 10 Shiny (deceptive) surface (6)
 - 11 Breathe in sharply (4)
 - 12 Boppland, not on rolling stone (4)

PRIZES:
THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network.
THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers an extensive range of departure and destination points throughout the UK as well as Europe. As the UK's second largest scheduled service airline and Heathrow's second biggest user, it operates a fleet of 35 aircraft on over 1200 flights per week throughout the UK and Europe. All flights are subject to availability.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address

SOLUTION TO NO 866
ACROSS: 1 Penelope 5 Brig 8 Judgment 9 Taco 11 Milan 12 Lay line 13 Sluice 15 Switch 18 Gudsend 19 Tacks 21 Reed 22 Literature 23 Hush 24 Welshman
DOWN: 1 Pyamas 2 Medal 3 Roman-4-clef 4 Kindle 6 Reveal 7 Globe 10 Eyewitness 14 Undress 16 Has-been 17 Advice 18 Girh 20 Clarm

McCoist leads Rangers rout of defenceless Russian champions

Alania Vladikavkaz 2
Rangers 7
(Rangers win 10-3 on agg)

FROM KEVIN MCCARRA
IN VLADIKAVKAZ

THERE is always a risk that education will prove uncomfortable, but Rangers made the experience excruciating for Alania Vladikavkaz last night.

With a McCaist hat-trick in the first 17 minutes, the Scottish champions sauntered through to the Champions' League phase of the European Cup while the Russians discovered that a career-free approach can prove costly.

After six matches, Vladikavkaz have still to record a win in European competition, despite their dashing attacks, and, if Rangers themselves have been accused in the past of being novices, Walter Smith's team was full of wisdom on this occasion. It also offered evidence of Smith's belief that his team can compete at the highest level, that his players have individual talents and the slick understanding that gives those skills their maximum effect.

The entire tie, already leaning Rangers' way after the Scots won the first leg 3-1, was settled - in stunning fashion - after 36 seconds of the return. Laudrup prevented Sheliya from making a challenge and Cleland, reading the Dane's intentions, set off on an overlapping run to collect the pass. From the right, the full back picked out McCaist, leaving him to finish with a vigorous header. It was a perfect execution of the plans Rangers had made for this game.

Vladikavkaz realised then

that they needed an improbable four goals to qualify and, although they had the courage to maintain a smooth rhythm, Rangers were free to relax.

Albertz, frequently tormented by Revishvili, was admittedly less content than most and crosses from the Russian did demand desperate challenges and excellent goalkeeping, but Rangers were still composed enough to extend their lead in the thirteenth minute.

Perhaps relieved to step outside his own half, Albertz curled a meticulous cross on to the head of McCaist, who finished neatly. Within a minute, the vigorous Yanowski had demonstrated his own defiant spirit by lashing a goal home from 20 yards, but Vladikavkaz would have required a battery of such firepower to alter the course of the game.

Rangers' measured style was a far more reliable weapon and was employed again in the eighteenth minute. Timoteev was clumsy in his control, allowing van Vossen to take possession, sprint on and slip a careful pass through to provide McCaist with his hat-trick. The second he has scored in five days.

After 23 minutes, Vladikavkaz did summon up another goal. Suleimanov converting from the penalty spot after Albertz had fouled Revishvili, but Rangers' counter-attacking was still far too astute for the Russians. With five minutes of the first half left, McCaist's service invited van Vossen to round the goalkeeper and give Rangers a 4-2 lead.

With every competitive aspect of the game removed,

there was little for Rangers to do other than indulge in some elegant, untroubled football, punctuated by the occasional goal. The first of those - and fifth of the evening - came ten minutes after the restart, a fine passing move involving Petric and van Vossen ending with Laudrup adding an assured finish. The Dane scored once more in the 83rd minute before setting up the final goal of the evening for the substitute, Miller, four minutes from time.

Before this tie began in Glasgow a fortnight ago, Smith had scoffed at the very idea that his side could dismiss the Russian champions. Last night, however, that is exactly what they achieved and, in the process, they indicated that the club could be on the verge of claiming new status for itself. A year ago, in the Champions' League, Rangers were frequently embarrassed, particularly by Juventus, the eventual European Cup-winners, but a great deal has changed since then.

The restriction on foreign players has been removed and the Scottish champions no longer have the handicap of selecting from a limited population of five million. In this game, they began with five non-nationals in the team and the total will be swelled by the addition of Gascoigne. Rangers' new strength was reflected in this astounding display.

First, however, Hoddle faces a trip to the Black Sea for the Moldavia World Cup qualifying match on September 1. Injuries in what was the Euro 96 squad have created vacancies, with Tony Adams, David Platt and Paul Gascoigne all doubtful.

Hoddle believes that Skinner and Baddiel, composers of the Three Lions anthem, popularly known as *Football's Coming Home*, which galvanised Terry Venables' team during the European championships, can help to recreate the atmosphere of the

summer tournament for the first Wembley game against Poland on October 9.

The FA is also attempting to sign a showbusiness celebrity to lead the singing of the National Anthem. "If it's possible to recreate the marvellous atmosphere we saw at Euro 96 it would be a huge boost to the team and myself," Hoddle said. "We want the noise, the flags, the passion."

First, however, Hoddle faces a trip to the Black Sea for the Moldavia World Cup qualifying match on September 1. Injuries in what was the Euro 96 squad have created vacancies, with Tony Adams, David Platt and Paul Gascoigne all doubtful.

Hoddle believes that Skinner and Baddiel, composers of the Three Lions anthem, popularly known as *Football's Coming Home*, which galvanised Terry Venables' team during the European championships, can help to recreate the atmosphere of the

"You're not sure your health insurance will pay my bill, are you?"



Until now, buying a cheaper private healthplan has meant compromising on the amount of cover you get. But Primecare, a new policy from Prime Health, actually gives you comprehensive cover - at a budget price.

So, if you're buying a policy, ask yourself: does it cover out-patient treatment, like specialist consultations? Does it give you immediate access to private treatment? Does it guarantee full payment of surgeons' and anaesthetists' fees? Will it pay for alternative medicine?

Primecare gives you all this. For more details, call us now quoting reference no. MO2489NG

Prime Health
A member of the Standard Life Group

Call us now on 0800 77 99 55

THE TIMES THURSDAY
West
join E
paedo

THE B...
Dr Dagmar...
for the German...
there were four...
The...
prostitutes...
experience...
The...
prostitutes...
German...
courship...
That...
impression...
money...
Child...
they are...
The...
problems...
and...
with a woman...

PROFILE
Dr Dagmar...
for the German...
there were four...
The...
prostitutes...
experience...
The...
prostitutes...
German...
courship...
That...
impression...
money...
Child...
they are...
The...
problems...
and...
with a woman...

Lyn...
Lyn...
Lyn...

West case police join Belgians in paedophile hunt

FROM ROGER BOYES IN CHARLEROI

THE Belgian police appeared to be floundering yesterday in their attempts to round up a paedophile network, despite help from a British detective and theories and leads offered by child-sex analysts as far away as South Africa.

Superintendent John Bennett of the Gloucestershire Constabulary travelled yesterday to Neufchâteau to offer his experience in tracking down child murderers Fred and Rosemary West. But despite the superficial parallels — a husband and wife team preying on runaway children and burying corpses in their garden — the Belgian case seems to be in a different dimension.

The Belgian police are testing the theory as to whether chief suspect, Marc Dutroux, and his wife could really have acted within a closed circle like the Wests or whether a much wider, international connection is inevitable, a source close to the police said. That, rather than physical search techniques, seems to be what the Belgians want to learn from the British.

But there is no mistaking the confusion and nervousness of the police, who are under public pressure. The funeral of the two murdered eight-year-old girls is today and about 50,000 mourners are expected in Liège.

The Belgian media have highlighted the reports of an informant who tipped off the police as early as 1992, shortly

after Dutroux's premature release from a 13-year jail term for child rape. The informant said Dutroux was redesigning a cellar "with the aim of holding children there until they are sent abroad".

The police ignored the information. Three years later the report was passed to prosecutors investigating the disappearance of the two eight-year-olds who were eventually dug up in Dutroux's garden. Again the tip was set aside.

"Criminal incompetence," *Dernière Heure* said yesterday. "Everything was known but nothing was done," said *Le Soir*. "An inquiry riddled with holes," cried *Libre Belgique*.

There appeared to be two problems: the first is that the police have never accepted that there is organised paedophilia in Belgium. The second is that police are not used to conducting international inquiries. This lack of experience is becoming obvious.

Police seemed unsure yesterday, for example, how to deal with a South African initiative. Reggie Marimuthu, director of the South African Police, has found similarities between the Belgian scandal and a Pretoria case in which five runaway girls were linked to a paedophile. The South Africans said they were prepared to go to Belgium "if there is evidence of some kind of an international ring".

The vulnerability of the case in Belgium is that it depends

too heavily on the confessions of Dutroux. Only he has given substantial information so far. It was Dutroux — a 39-year-old electrician described variously as "highly intelligent" or "devious" — who led the police to the graves in his garden. He denies killing the two girls and blames the murder on an accomplice. In a fit of anger, he has told the police, he killed the accomplice and buried him along with the children.

There is no sound way of checking Dutroux's story. Much of the theory about international connection depends on whether one believes Dutroux's story that he abducted two teenagers in Ostend in order to sell them abroad. Others arrested in the case, including Dutroux's second wife, Michelle Martin, and Jean-Michel Nihoul, a Brussels estate agent, are denying everything.

The police are pursuing three main lines of inquiry. First they are digging into the sources of Dutroux's wealth. His ownership of 11 houses and flats in Belgium may eventually produce a trail leading to a wealthy accomplice. Second, they are cross-checking every missing girl in Belgium as well as recent cases of Dutch runaways. Third, they are searching Dutroux's properties for signs that children were hidden there.

Leading article, page 17

PROFILE OF A SEX TOURIST

Dr Dagmar Heine-Weidenmann, in a report for the German Ministry of Justice, found that there were four basic types of child sex tourists:

- The "globetrotter" has sex with under-age prostitutes because it is part of an exotic experience.
- The "sex consumer" finds that Asian child prostitutes are good value for money. In Germany he might have to spend weeks of courtship before going to bed with a woman. A Thai prostitute is cheap and does not give the impression that she is having sex with him for money. Child prostitutes are preferred since they are young and relatively innocent.
- The "inadequate". Many sex tourists have problems relating to women: they are often lonely and have not had a proper relationship with a woman for many years. Only 23 per cent

of all German sex tourists are married. One respondent questioned by Dr Weidenmann said: "I was married for 20 years, then divorced, after that I had almost all negative experiences. I had to catch up with my youth: I was 12 years old when the war ended, I didn't have a childhood." Now this man is looking for his childhood with girls.

□ The "pseudo husband". These are Germans who spend a month of their holidays every year with the same child prostitute. Her parents are paid and the customer describes his sex holiday as a kind of "development aid". The girl lives with him and washes his clothes. Similar types exist in homosexual paedophilia, according to Sri Lankan prosecutor B. Aluvihare.



Three boys point at the German Konrad Jecht during a press conference in Manila yesterday. They accused him of sexually molesting them

How the sex tourists evade justice



Tougher laws will deter some paedophiles but Third World poverty will ensure that sex tourism continues to flourish, Roger Boyes writes

courts to prosecute the so-called "sex tourists". But the problems of gathering evidence in a foreign country and finding witnesses, has blunted the effect of the legislation.

So far only one German, in Bavaria, has been jailed, receiving an eight-month suspended sentence. Sweden, which has a similar law, sentenced a 63-year-old man to three months' prison for having sex with a 13-year-old Thai boy.

The main centres of child sex tourism, according to documents prepared for the Stockholm conference, are Sri Lanka, Thailand, the Philippines and Cambodia. "If

you're looking for adventure, Cambodia is it right now," declares the sleazy World Sex Guide on the Internet. It adds a press report that in Phnom Penh, "a six-year-old is available for three dollars". Paedophile clubs are also beginning to show strong interest in Poland, Romania and Russia.

The Dutch-based Child Rights group claims that "Dutch paedophiles have started their own sex resorts in Romania and Poland". The Dutch campaigners have also registered the case of "a little Polish boy, invited last Christmas to Amsterdam, who was drugged, tied to a bed within a

few days of his arrival and sexually abused for a video recording".

The scale of child prostitution is huge. In Thailand officials say the number is around 100,000. In the Philippines there are said to be between 40,000 and 60,000 — two-thirds of them boys. In Sri Lanka the child prostitutes are almost all boys — around 30,000 so-called "beach boys".

The number of child prostitutes has kept pace with modern tourism. Package tours from Düsseldorf to Sri Lanka cost around £800 for ten or 12 days, only slightly more expensive than a trip to nearby Italy.

None of the countries targeted by paedophiles wants to solve the legal problem. Sex tourism looks set to boom in the 21st century. Already Taiwanese investors are negotiating to build a sex tourism resort in Vietnam. Perhaps they should meet the young prostitute from Olongapo in the Philippines who told a German television team last month: "At ten years old you are grown up, at 20 you are an old woman, at 30 you are dead."

6 The sleazy World Sex Guide on the Internet reports that Cambodia is the place for adventure and that in Phnom Penh a six-year-old is available for three dollars 2

Free Lynx Shower Gel*



*Buy any two Lynx body sprays and get a free shower gel (normally £2.19 each)

superdrug

The real beauty is the price

Most exercisers only work half your body.



If you want to be completely fit, you need an exerciser that's better by half. And unlike ordinary exercisers — such as bikes and steppers — which concentrate only on your legs, a NordicTrack works your entire body at once.

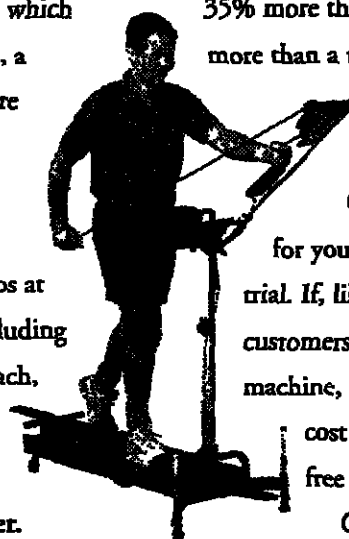
That means you can trim and firm all your major muscle groups at the same time. Including those in your stomach, arms and chest.

A more effective workout altogether.

By working your arms and legs simultaneously, you achieve a superior total-body aerobic workout. As little as 20 minutes, three times a week, helps to strengthen your heart and lungs, lower your blood pressure and reduce your cholesterol level.

As a result, you get much more out

of each workout. Plus, you can burn an average of 890 calories per hour. That's 24% more than with an exercise bike, 35% more than a stepper and 20% more than a treadmill.



Fitness at home with NordicTrack.

Call NordicTrack now for your free 30 day in-home trial. If, like most of our customers you choose to keep the machine, you can now spread the cost by paying in interest-free instalments.

Call now for details of your nearest NordicTrack Fitness Centre or to order your free brochure and exercise video.

0800 616179

PLEASE QUOTE REFERENCE DT116

NordicTrack

THE WORLD'S BEST AEROBIC EXERCISERS

Yes, I would like to know more about the world's best aerobic exercisers. Please send my free video ☐ and brochure ☐ without obligation.

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Ms):

Address:

County:

Postcode:

Tel: (day)

Tel: (even)

Send me NordicTrack (UK) Ltd., Dept. DT116, Freepost CV 2617, Warwick CV34 6BR. No stamp is required. Alternatively you can fax us on 01926 470811.

An unfestive season in Edinburgh

Comedians abound but the locals are not amused, says Joseph Connolly

Is Edinburgh getting tired of the Festival? Some people are. That's for sure. At the weekend, the whole of the Royal Mile (the steep rise to the Castle, knee-deep in Fringe performers and assorted lunatics) was closed to traffic for three days for a street party to celebrate this 50th Festival. All very jolly, but the pub owners were up in arms because temporary bars were being set up, and the city's 1,030 official cabbies have just about had enough. "What with 500 black cabs too many," moaned one, "the one-way systems, and tourists who are determined to walk because the city is so pretty, I sometimes feel I'll drive down to Leith and not stop until I hit the sea."

The T-shirts bearing the slogan "Festival'd Out" are

pig's trotter," confided one lady from Baltimore, "because you just know exactly where it's been."

Most enjoy sampling the beer and, of course, the whisky, but although good pubs do exist, such as the Bow Bar in Victoria Street, many tourists find themselves in some ersatz hole which is often, rather bizarrely, Irish (or, I should say, "Oirish"). There is a huge rash of these — Brannigans, Finnigans, Milligans and the like — with so-so Guinness and the sort of bejaysus leprachaun music that Americans assume to be traditionally Scottish — another reason why they wander about in a state of confusion.

As for the comedy shows, these really have to work at getting audiences, and more

so now that the reviews have begun to kick in. One critic rated one performer more acceptable than the other, just as emphysema is preferable to full-blown cancer. "You've got to laugh, haven't you? The comics with sufficient backing to command posters all want to resemble retds. They wear "funny" clothes,

they contort their limbs in a "funny" way and twist their faces into "funny" expressions; well — you haven't got to laugh, have you?

If the act runs only to flyers they have to be ho-ho (in the know) parodies — pastiches or, for all I know, homages. Old Penguin covers, Sex Pistol albums and, ho-hum, *Reservoir Dogs* seem favourites, but the Fab Four and even the city's home-grown *Trainspotting* are right up there too.

It's a shame that Agatha Christie never wrote a mystery called *Murder On The Mile* — such a crime would surely be undetectable. Amid all the blood-spattered ghoulies and witches and ghosts and vampires and pterosaurs if an actual killing took place, all the perpetrator would receive is a round of applause and a promise of a contract from a dodgy London agent.

Most people are up on the Mile for the food and drink, or else the Fringe comedy shows, of which there seem to be no more than three million. The grub is either tourist "fayre" (aimed at those who queue to undergo some dreadful "experience" or other) or else can be really quite adventurous ("I cannot abide the thought of

Talking of *Trainspotting*, late one night in the bar of a posh hotel, one hack was disclaiming loudly that he at a loss as to what all this Edinburgh drug addiction business was all about; he had been here, nearly a week, and had witnessed no instance whatever of substance abuse. Then, to great hilarity, his chair keeled over and he lay contentedly where he fell.

Finally, a word about the name of the city. The English say (more or less) Edinbra, Americans go for Edinbrow, older locals tend to go for Aidinburra, while the younger set plump for the rather snappy Emra — with much rolling of the R's and, when explaining it all to tourists, the eyes.

A GIFT OF UP TO
£10,000

WITHOUT EVEN MOVING HOME!

FOR MORE DETAILS
Call FREE anytime between
8am-8pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat

**0800
291 291**

Please quote ref T12208
Current interest rate 6.99%
typical APR 7.2% variable

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT

**CHELSEA
CASHBACK
MORTGAGE**
**Chelsea
BUILDING SOCIETY**



A book at beachtime: "You want to be able to tear the pages away as you read, so that the book isn't too heavy when you lie on your back and hold it up to shade your eyes"

Books to match bikinis

Giles Coren goes under cover at Heathrow airport to find out what the great British public is taking to read on holiday

First stop was two bottles of Ambre Solaire, factor 10 for the first few days, and a nice big one of factor 4 for when she was past burning. After trying on 48 pairs of sunglasses she opted for the pink wrap-around with the free silver leatherette pouch, and another ten minutes went into the choice of a cheap sarong.

Then they called her plane for the last time. "Damn!" she cried. "I haven't got a thing to read." And she dived into WH Smith. She was out again in less time than it took to pluck three volumes off a shelf. And with that Janine Clyde, a 32-year-old account planner in a London advertising agency, had mapped out the literary direction of the next two weeks of her life.

This is Heathrow, early August — where WH Smith sells more than a million books a year — and where people who do not otherwise look particularly bookish (backwards baseball caps, baggy shorts, shell suits, fake tan) descend on the 19, yes, nineteen WH Smith shops, and carry on like a cross between Umberto Eco and the Ruby Wax of the Vauxhall adverts: bibliomania and shopaholicism in ugly fusion.

But this may be just the tonic the book trade is looking for. For with sales in gradual decline since 1993, sliding from an annual retail of £1,713 million three years ago, and no perk-up so far this year, trade hopes have been pinned on August holiday sales.

An impossibly fat man in a purple T-shirt is shovelling dozens of books into a basket, which all seem to be part of a series entitled *W.W.J.I.* The one he is reading on his way to the till is subtitled *World in Flames*. Why these, particularly? "I've read all the books about the Second World War," he explains. He also carries, under a sweaty armpit, *The Cult at the End of the World*. "It's about, um, the ones who nerve-gassed the Tokyo subway. They are the world's first scientific death cult. Did you know that their leader, Shoko Asahara, predicts that a final battle will destroy civilisation and usher in a new kingdom?"

Turning back to Ms Clyde, I examined her selection: "It's just such a coincidence," she said, brandishing *Chances and Hollywood Kids*, both by Jackie Collins. "I've read them before, but they seem to have just come out in lovely new

bright coloured editions, and these two, in lime green and pink, exactly match the bikinis I bought. This other book is just about *The X-Files* — I didn't know there were books, but I love the telly series."

Wait a minute. This woman was carrying a copy of *The Times* under her arm. Had she perhaps missed the July 6 edition, when the *Weekend* books pages, among a selection of celebrity recommendations for summer reading, published Lord Annan's supplication: "Why not take Dickens' *Bleak House* or *Our*

Erotic Quest of Dirk and Honey and Wild Abandon — The Secret Life of a Student Love. "You always seem to get more of the anonymous books in airport outlets than in the high street, don't you?"

But there is more to the modern airport bookshop than mere porn and frippery. There are now dozens of shelves of literary fiction, biography, business books, history and poetry — which is said to be very popular.

While P.D. James begged readers, in *The Times* feature, to read the new biography of Thomas Cranmer, and rethink their attitude to Henry VIII's favourite religious toady, it was Michael Crichton's *Lost World*, the sequel to *Jurassic Park*, which was sold out. "Went almost as soon as it came in," says Gloria, who works in one of Terminal 1's airside outlets. "Then there is this thing by Tom Clancy's Op Centre, *Games of State*, and something called *Emotional Intelligence* — I don't know what it is, they just love it." That is to say that two of Heathrow's most popular books this summer are a thriller by a team that is merely using a famous name as a brand, and a non-fiction title that is little more than a defence of dimness.

Men in suits were plucking out copies of Andy McNab's *Immediate Action* and Wilbur Smith's *The Seventh Scroll* like so many ripe raspberries. And the series of Sharpe novels, which gave rise to the Sean Bean television series, had a queue in front of it so long that it looked like a check-in desk.

One man whose choice of reading I challenged told me: "I have always been a fan, ever since *Kane and Abel*. This *Scorpion Trail* looks a great read..." The fact that this was a novel by one Geoffrey Archer, seemed to bother him not a jot.

And yet more disrespect for the literary niceties was displayed by Carol Townsend, and her daughters Catherine and Claudia: "We're only buying one copy of *The Man Who Made Husbands Jealous*," Mrs Townsend confided, "because what we do is tear it into three equal chunks and then pass it round. It doesn't matter where you start, but we are always so desperate to

read it that no one can wait for someone else to finish it. "We did the same thing with *Polo* last year, and with *Rivals*. It is usually the person who starts at the end, then reads the middle and finishes at the beginning who has the best read."

"You see, there are two kinds of holiday book buyer," said an elderly man, whose opinion I had not courted, but who had seen what I was up to, and introduced himself as Meredith, a retired surveyor from Virginia Water, Surrey. He carried a copy of Peter

Levi's *Eden Renewed: The Public and Private Life of John Milton* and explained his theory. "There are those," he said, "who look forward all year to the two weeks when they will have time to read the books which require peace and quiet to appreciate, books they have been meaning to read for ages. And there are the rest, who take books on holiday because there are no televisions on the beach."

Buy the mobile phone.
Get the CD player free.

NOKIA

NEW GSM MODEL 1610.

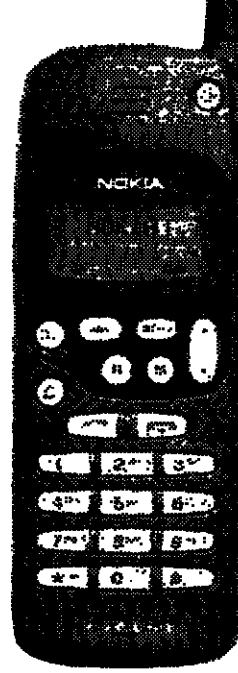
- ◆ Up to 100 hrs standby-time
- ◆ Up to 3.5 hrs talk-time
- ◆ 45 name/number memory stored on SIM
- ◆ Fast recharge-55 mins
- ◆ 5 selectable ring tones
- ◆ Weight 250g

FREE CD PLAYER
WORTH £149.99 (RRP)



2Batteries not included
LIMITED OFFER PHONE NOW

GUARANTEED PEACE OF MIND
Your phone is covered by our 14 days
no quibble money back promise.



LIFETIME
PRODUCT
WARRANTY

LIMITED OFFER
£4.99
INC. VAT

The ultimate communications and entertainment package from Cellphones Direct! Order the outstanding Nokia 1610 digital mobile phone today, and once you've had it connected, we'll send you this superb Casio Compact Disc Player worth £149.99 (RRP) entirely free of charge.

Simply call us with your credit card details to receive your phone within 4 working days.

VODAFONE PERSONALWORLD	
Connection	£25.25 (£30+VAT)
Monthly Rental	£17.63 (£15+VAT)
Peak Rate Calls 01 calls	35.25p per min (30p+VAT)
Off Peak Calls	11.75p per min (10p+VAT)

PersonWorld peak times are 8.00-20.00 Mon to Fri. Monday evening calls will be charged at £3.77+VAT per month. Line rental (included monthly in above) and airtime charges will be debited to your nominated credit/debit card. Calls charged at 1 second rates.

Cellphones Direct

ORDER NOW WITH YOUR CREDIT CARD DETAILS FOR FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS
FREEPHONE 0800 000 888
CREDIT CARD ORDERING HOTLINE WEEKDAYS 8AM TO 7PM WEEKENDS 9AM TO 5PM
CLOSED BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD AND THIS ADVERTISEMENT READY WHEN YOU CALL
AND QUOTE REF 4122. (CARRY WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT SWITCH CHARGES)
Offer subject to check, a standard return contract for each phone with Cellphones Direct Ltd. 125 Lower Richmond Road, Richmond-upon-Thames TW9 4LN, and the phone not being returned within the 14-day period of mind period. Full version details and terms and conditions of this offer are available on request. © Copyright. Registered No. 2595222

Do you have about 40% too much money?

Then why spend 40% more on your international calls?

- Worldcall costs about 40% less on international calls than BT (& up to 70% to some destinations)
- Call from any touchtone phone, anytime, to anywhere in the world
- Pay for what you say — with per second billing to all countries
- Enjoy high quality digital connections through one of the biggest networks in the world

Rate card
and
user guide
available
on request.

All major credit cards accepted.

CALL NOW and find out how much you'll save

0181 900 9990

Worldcall
pay less say more

For those with about 40% more to say

The fall of the house of Macallan-Glenlivet is a case of complacency in the boardroom, writes Magnus Linklater

The Malt — the takeover

This is a sad and shabby tale about the demise of a once splendidly independent company; and while it may merit little more than a shrug of the shoulders on the Stock Exchange, the outcome has been so devastating for one small community, and the manner in which it happened has been so brutal, that it is worth examining in detail. In some ways, the story bears all the hallmarks of the cut-throat takeover bonanza which characterised the 1980s, but it also raises important questions about those things which companies are meant to care about: these days, quality, skills, and the nurturing of excellence.

The name of Macallan-Glenlivet was synonymous with all of those. One of the last independent distilleries in Scotland, it manufactured a whisky which traded on a reputation for being the finest in the world. Its folksy advertising slogan, "The Macallan — the Malt", was usually to be found in up-market magazines, and its glamorous profile was regularly enhanced

by its chairman, Allan Shish, who spent most of his time in Hollywood, where he is a top screenwriter, but who regularly proclaimed that his roots lay in the little village of Craigellachie in Morayshire, where his family had been manufacturing whisky for 200 years. That all came to an end with stunning speed in July. Highland Distilleries, the giant whisky conglomerate, moved in on Macallan, and, with the backing of Suntory, the Japanese drinks manufacturer, bought up the company in a £180 million hostile takeover. What struck some observers as odd was not the bid itself, which many had seen coming since January, when Highland acquired a 20 per cent stake in Macallan from Remy Martin, but the price it paid. Highland actually undervalued the shares by about 18 per cent, offering 152.5p

even though the Macallan share price on the eve of the bid was 187p. The Macallan board described it as "an unprecedented and highly unsatisfactory situation", but they had no choice but to accept. Highland, in concert with Suntory, owned 51 per cent of the shares. They were thus in a position to vote their own people onto the Macallan board if the bid was resisted. On July 10, the company surrendered and told its shareholders that it had no alternative but to accept. The share price fell back to 160p. The Takeover Panel, which was consulted about the deal, saw nothing to complain about — there is apparently no reason why anyone should not offer below the market price for a company, and although it found the bid "interesting", there was "nothing to concern a regulator". Market analysts

briskly concluded that if anything Highland had paid too generously. The predicted operating profit to 1997 of £9 million on a turnover of £24 million suggested that it was, in Stock Exchange parlance, quite "plump", but Distillers and Suntory combined would improve distribution, bring increased marketing expertise, and "streamline" the company. Distillers lost no time in doing that. Of 67 jobs at the distillery, 26 are to be dispensed with, including 14 of the production team and three of the "nosers" who help to maintain the distinctive quality of a Macallan malt. The four directors and four non-executive directors are leaving, and for the remainder of the workforce there is the prospect of a pay cut as hours are reduced. The effect on a tiny community, where some workers

have spent their lives at the distillery, has been shattering. Margaret Ewing, the SNP MP for Moray, who has taken up the case, says that the results of the takeover are "the cruellest I have ever witnessed". Morale at the distillery is, not surprisingly, "low". Highland Distillers, and its chief executive, Brian Ivory, say they regret the redundancies but maintain that the deal will be "good for Highland". To allow the Macallan to lose its character would be commercial suicide, and Highland knows that as well as anyone. More questionable is the role of the former directors in not doing more to protect Macallan-Glenlivet from a hostile bid that should have been predicted. None of them has notably suffered. Allan Shish managed to sell 500,000 of his shares in the months before the takeover at prices ranging from £1.60 to £1.91, and managing director Willie Phil-

lips and marketing director Hugh Micalle also disposed of parcels of shares. There is of course no suggestion that they knew anything about the impending takeover, and they are as dismayed as anyone about the outcome. But they will all manage to keep the wolf from the door once they have negotiated their severance terms. They will leave, however, with a sense of failure. These days there is no room for complacent management, however excellent the product. A chairman who thinks he can run a whisky firm from another continent, and a board which simply does not detect the fragility of its own company are failing in their responsibilities towards the workforce. Wringing hands after the event is no substitute for foresight in advance of it. It is a lesson we all thought that British management had learnt in the Thatcher era.

As for me, I don't think I'll ever be able to savour the peaty taste of a Macallan malt in quite the same way again.

Peter Riddell asks if Maurice Saatchi has time for the Lords

Do working peers work?

Working peer is a classic English oxymoron, rather like public school. The term disguises more than it reveals. Being a peer is not supposed to be a full-time job, and is not paid as such. All peers have the same rights and duties. The difference between the 14 new "working" peers announced yesterday and the others is expectation. "Working" peers, nominated by the party leaders, are supposed to be the lobby fodder of the Lords, voting and occasionally speaking at their parties' call. But it does not always turn out like that. Some of the best known "working" peers have been the poorest attenders in the Lords, while others with many other interests, such as Jeffrey Archer, are among the most assiduous.

There are several ways into the House of Lords. The most common — still accounting for more than two-thirds of the current roll of nearly 1,200 — is to inherit a title. Of the rest, there are 26 bishops, by right and seniority, and 20 Law Lords. That leaves nearly 400 life peers who hold their titles just for their lifetimes. A handful are created each year in the New Year and Birthday Honours lists, including retiring archbishops, Cabinet Secretaries and Chiefs of the Defence Staff, plus the occasional academic. After each election, there is always a dissolution list in which a couple of dozen former MPs become peers. There is now an expectation that former Cabinet ministers are at least offered a peerage, though there are a few exceptions, as well as those such as Michael Foot and Bruce Millan who do not want to become peers. Departing prime ministers always have a resignation list, most notoriously the "lavender" list from Harold Wilson in 1976.

"Working" peers are different only because they are asked to say they will be active. This is an informal promise, since there cannot be a formal, enforceable undertaking, and once ennobled, peers can do what they want unless they are jailed. The lists have included party worthies and distinguished outsiders, including big donors to both parties. A striking result has been to bring in talented professional women, many in their forties or fifties, who have been able to devote more time to the Lords than men of the same age. Elizabeth Symons, the trade unionist, is only the latest in a line of Labour life peeresses — Tessa Blackstone, Patricia Hollis, Margaret Jay and Helene Hayman (a rare former MP) — who are brighter than many women Labour members of the Commons.

These lists of "working" peers, usually announced every 12 to 18 months, are a by-product of the invention of life peerages in 1958 by Harold Macmillan. This innovation led to a revival of a previously moribund chamber. Attendance rose and there were more contested votes. Harold Wilson boosted the low number of Labour peers, accounting for half the new life creations in the 1960s and 1970s. The balance shifted under Margaret Thatcher. She ensured that a majority of new life peers were Tories. Faced with a growing number of revolts in the Lords from the mid-1980s, she nominated several prominent ideological and financial backers to ensure that the Thatcherite cause was heard. But this did not work out: some of the new peers, like Lady Thatcher herself, did not really take to the Lords, or were so busy outside that they were not frequent attenders. Among Thatcher creations in various forms, the late Lord White of Hull, Lord Weinstock, Lord Quinton (the don), and Lord King of Warrnaby (of British Airways fame), were or are more notable for their activities beyond the Lords than within. A rare exception is Lord Jakobovits, the former Chief Rabbi, Lady Thatcher's favourite cleric.

The large number of new Tory creations has reinforced the inherent Conservative bias in the Lords. After all, the Tories can always refresh themselves through new hereditary peers, but Labour relies on a steady flow of life peers as elderly ones die. The average age of the Labour peers is over 70, and the party reckons it needs more than 60 new peers just to get back to its relative position of 1979, even if there are no new Tory creations.

The latest list, for once, had eight Labour and Liberal Democrat creations, and just six Tory peers. But like the previous ones since 1979, its primary purpose is to keep the Tory whips happy. The real issue raised by the elevation of Maurice Saatchi and Peter Gummer is not about their advice on the Tories' poster campaign, that is familiar partisan knockabout, and previous party figures, such as Alistair McAlpine, have also been ennobled. Rather, it is whether they will have the time to be assiduous in the Lords. Will the summons of Lord Strathclyde, the Tory chief whip, really take priority over the call of clients, including Central Office? Or are they being rewarded, while there is time before the election, for past and present services to the party?

The myth of the phoenix

Concluding our series, John Charmley argues that Conservatives do not need defeat to achieve renewal

Conservatives believe in continuity and evolution, yet they have saddled themselves with a version of their post-war history which emphasises revolution and discontinuity. From the ashes of defeat in 1945 came the Butler era; 1964 was followed by the Heath reforms; and 1974 by the Thatcher revolution.

This reading of events makes a period in opposition seem almost welcome as an opportunity for the phoenix to rise again. The post-war history of the party has been dominated by recollections of the era 1945-51. In the able and distinguished hands of Lords Blake, Butler and Gilmour, that period has taken on mythic importance. It was the vernal equinox of progressive Toryism, when, under the guidance of Butler and Macmillan, policy was reformulated and the Conservatives came to terms with the post-war consensus. This paved the way for the long ascendancy of 1951-64. The moral of this was clear, and lest anyone should miss it, Lord Blake was able to give it a historical resonance: if the Conservatives did not follow the Judite path of adaptation and judicious reform they would perish in the last ditch.

What was praiseworthy to Heathites became, of course, a source of condemnation to Thatcherites, and Andrew Roberts has called the Churchill administration the least recognisably Conservative in recent history. As so often, the writing of the history of the Conservative Party became itself a weapon in a contemporary political struggle. As Heath's former speechwriter Michael Wolff noted of the Thatcherites, "They want to wipe out the past." Part of this involved a reworking of the history of the period after 1964. Before we are seduced by partisan myth-making into seeing the party's post-war history as a series of revolutions, it might be as well to note that what is most significant about the periods of opposition is their continuity with the past.

The caesura between the Churchill era and the one preceding it has been exaggerated. Churchill was naturally happy to let it be thought that he had nothing to do with the previous management, and given the destruction of the reputations of Baldwin and Chamberlain after 1940, the rest of the party was only too eager to follow suit. But through the fog of old political battles, it is the continuities between the Churchill and Baldwin eras which shine forth.

Baldwin had been a "one nation" Tory, devoted to restoring social harmony after the unrest that followed the First World War. His rhetoric of national unity had been accompanied by a vigorous programme of social reforms from Neville Chamberlain at the Ministry of Health. Diehards from the Right, such as Churchill, regarded Baldwin as a semi-socialist, and



many felt happier with Chamberlain's more confrontational style. The young men whom Baldwin had brought on included Butler, Eden and Macmillan, who vigorously supported the Beveridge Report of 1942, and the White Paper of 1944 which called for a commitment to full employment. They had no particular problems with Labour's insurance-based National Health Service, or even with their statist pattern of nationalisation. The policies they advocated after 1945 were those they had favoured before. What the election defeat did was speed up the process of getting rid of some of the older Conservative MPs and replacing them at by-elections and then two general elections with more young men of the Baldwinite vintage. In its appeasement of the trade unions, its social policy, and its acceptance of the post-war consensus, Churchill's Tory party was that of the young Baldwinians grown middle-aged.

Those who wanted to emphasise the radical nature of Thatcherism looked back to the period before her rise as one in which the "wets" failed either to operate the failing post-war consensus or to provide a replacement. Ted Heath became a symbol of a failed liberal Conservatism. This was an image which satisfied both the Thatcherites, who could emphasise that there was no alternative, and Heath, who could claim that he was it. But as with 1945-51, we must cut through the rich undergrowth of mythology spawned by historically minded Tories at war with each other. The years 1964 to 1979 were almost the unhappiest the Tories have known this century. They lacked the bleakness of the unrelied period of opposition between 1905 and 1915, but they included the trauma of the Heath Government. During this period, Harold Wilson's claim that Labour was the "natural party of government" seemed almost true. It is no wonder that Conservatives have not yet come to terms with this period. When they do re-examine it, they will perceive, once more, that there were more elements of continuity than contemporary protagonists were prepared to concede. Even before the election defeat of 1964, Macmillan, and following him

THE TORIES IN OPPOSITION

Douglas-Home, had inaugurated wide-ranging reviews of policy. It may have looked as though the abrasive and thrusting Heath, having pushed aside Home, was modernising the party, but much of what was done then derived from the work of his predecessors — and it had an effect on his successor. It was during the Heath years that the free-market ideas propounded by Enoch Powell and by Ralph Harris and Arthur Seldon of the Institute for Economic Affairs began to enter the mainstream of party thinking. Heath was a more radical figure than either he or his enemies will now admit. The Thatcherites would like to pretend that the revolution began with their heroine, and Heath would like to peddle a version of his 1970-74 Government which plays down the extent to which he failed to implement the proto-Thatcherite policies that had appeared in his manifesto. These things are understandable and are part of the internecine warfare of the 1980s, but they are myths all the same. The ideas adumbrated at the Selsdon Park conference in 1970 show the extent to which "Selsdon Man" was the ancestor of "Gran-tham Woman". As Peter Walker revealingly commented in the early and dark days of the first Thatcher

Government: "We tried all that stuff and it just didn't do." Yet it was in the Heath years that the party moved towards "rolling back the frontiers of the State", abolishing incomes policies, dealing firmly with the unions and ending state subsidies for industry.

The bitterness of the conflict between Heath and Thatcher owed not a little to the fact that she succeeded where he had not. Heath's failure persuaded his followers that a return to the old consensus Toryism was the only game in town, hence their contempt and scorn for Thatcher — and her reciprocal scorn when she triumphed. However, the only unique thing about Thatcherism as it developed after 1975 was the lady herself. The ideas upon which she drew were mainly those of "Selsdon Man", strengthened by the obvious failure of Labour's pathetic attempts to resuscitate the post-war consensus. It is right to talk of "Thatcherism", because what was new about it was not its ideological underpinnings, but the intestinal fortitude and political courage of its eponymous heroine.

The Conservative Party faces a perennial dilemma. It exists to conserve, yet the grass withers and the flower fades, so simply standing still is never an option if power is to be retained. The Conservatives have dealt with this not through a series of ideological revolutions or phoenix-like rebirths, but rather through the deployment of pragmatism. If ideas and policies to fail or become unpopular, there are always others to hand to fill the vacuum. It is easier for this process to take place in the relative obscurity of opposition, but it has also taken place when the party has been in power, sometimes, as recent events demonstrate, uncomfortably. There is no discontinuity here, but rather a process by which ideas and policies which have been advancing move to centre stage.

The lessons for the future if we abandon the myth of the phoenix are twofold: in the first place it is not necessary to go into opposition for the party to renew itself; nor is it desirable that there should be some revolutionary blood-letting after defeat. If the pattern repeats itself, the ideas and policies which will dominate the future of the party are already present. If this is correct, then to dump Mr Major after an election defeat and so precipitate a clash and between Left and Right in the party is undesirable, self-indulgent and unnecessary.

The Conservatives have been in power for greater part of the past five decades, spurning the lesson that one learns more from failure than from success; they would be wise to continue to decline that expensive educational exercise. The author's History of Conservative Politics 1900-1996 will be published next month by Macmillan.

Rather carless

AN ARAB PRINCE cruising the Croisette in Cannes in his gleaming Ferrari this week had his car confiscated with a routine check by French police found it was stolen. Prince Abdullah Al Faisal, a relation of the Saudi Arabian ruler King Fahd, had flown the car over from the United Arab Emirates at a cost of £4,000 especially for his sojourn in the South of France.

Ensnared in the air-conditioned comfort of its leather seats on Tuesday, he was admiring the beachwear on the seafloor when he was abruptly pulled over and his car checked.

He protested his innocence and managed to prove that he had bought the four-seater, worth more than £150,000, in good faith from a dealer in the United Arab Emirates. The gendarmes shrugged, pointed out that the car had been reported stolen in Milan in April, and promptly impounded it.

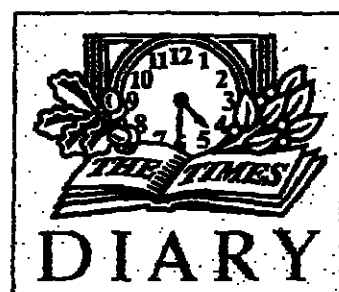
Unused as he was to such treatment, the Prince, a model of cooperation, was forced to lope off on foot. He looked lost until he stumbled into a fancy car showroom, where he picked a model be-

fitting a Saudi royalty — and rented it on the spot.

Down at the reconstructed Globe Theatre, Mark Rylance, the artistic director, was asked by an American journalist what was meant by the inscription painted over a prominent picture of Hercules: "Harmonia mundi concordia discors." Rylance confessed pathet-



"Have you seen my CS spray, dear?"



ically to ignorance. For his information, the line is from Horace and roughly translates as "The harmony of the world is a discordant concord."

What price?

THE TRUE TEST of the Queen's mettle with regard to the bothersome paparazzi will come next Wednesday when the Prince of Wales is expected to receive his decree absolute.

Royal snappers are planning to descend in droves on Balmoral in the hope of catching a picture of him celebrating with his horse friend Camilla Parker-Bowles. Rumours are running wild, the latest being that Camilla is to stay at a lodge in the grounds of the estate. Even those who have received

warning letters from Her Majesty are doing their sums. A snap of Charles in Camilla's company is worth £250,000; a picture of the couple kissing, they say will fetch £500,000.

All-rounder

BURIED in the fuss over yesterday's Honours List was the peacage awarded to Dame Hazel Byford, goffer, one-time poultry farmer and all-round bric. Dame Hazel is one of those women without whom the Conservatives, and indeed Leicestershire, would crumble like cake. She celebrated yesterday by ful-



Dame Hazel Byford

filling a long-standing commitment on the golf course, accompanying her best friend's mother, Marjorie Bentley, towards a handicapped card. Mrs Bentley is 88 and a demon on the over-80s circuit.

Back home, where the cupboard overflows with Byford socks and jumpers from her husband's old family business, the clan was gathering. Dame Hazel's frozen lemon mousse, spoken of in slaving terms around the counties, was on the menu.

"My peacage is a tremendous recognition of all voluntary workers," she says, before moving on to more serious matters. "I stand a better chance of making the Lords golf team than the bridge team. I understand the standard of bridge there is very high."

The Oscar Wilde Society plans to commemorate the centenary of his release from Reading Gaol by inaugurating a magnificent annual award. The prize of £10 will be made to the prisoner at Reading who produces the best creative writing.

Fluent footy

SPANGLISH is ringing out across Barcelona as Bobby Robson, the former England football manager,



Naughty Ed: snorted at the idea of being last bat at school

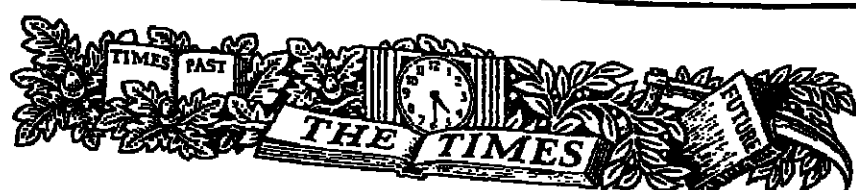
puts the local team through its paces. Since arriving to coach Barcelona, Robson has mixed English, smatterings of Portuguese, which he learned as coach of FC Porto, with beginner's Spanish and Catalan. "Come on, saltar, jump" he shouts, before an encouraging "Excepcionalmente perfecto."

Key player

THE FAST-BOWLER Ed Giddins, who has just been banned for 18 months by the Test and County Cricket Board after testing posi-

tive for cocaine, is not a man to be kept from the game for long — as his teachers at Eastbourne College will testify.

In the school 1st XI, he was once so angry at being put down last to bat that he decided to promote himself up the order. He locked the number five batsman in the loo, and when the third wicket fell he ran out onto the pitch to take his place. He was forgiven when he scored 92 and won the match for Eastbourne.



ACTION FOR A CHILD

The nation's values do not safeguard the nation's innocents

The unfolding horror in Charleroi, like the murder of Daniel Handley and the crimes of Fred and Rosemary West, catch the heart and still the tongue. There is an unspeakable quality about their depravity that causes so many of us, instinctively, to turn away. What shield is reason, what value argument when confronted with killing children for pleasure, behaviour lower than beasts?

Yet an attempt at understanding must be made, as a path not to forgiveness but to action. Doctors, police and politicians have a duty to investigate every way of preventing the recurrence of behaviour which, by its nature, holds criminals in its grip. There are steps to take which, while they cannot end the vilest of crimes, might make them less likely. Public policy must be reformed: more than that, public attitudes must be reviewed. The nation's values insufficiently safeguard the nation's innocents.

Paedophilia is of a different order from most other criminal offences, not just in its capacity to shock but in the pathology of its perpetrators. Most criminal activity, especially violent crime, is committed by young males. With age comes, if not maturity, then at least a moving away from the habits of youth. Prison plays a valuable part in chastening, in some cases rehabilitating and, at worst, simply confining most criminals while they are a danger. Paedophiles follow a different pattern, closer to that of other addicts and little moved by social pressure or moral constraint.

Paedophile behaviour is obsessive and compulsive. Shallow immersion in the crime, through child pornography or indirect exposure to minors, can feed a desire to go further into more intense, and inevitably evil, acts. Even those paedophiles who acknowledge and, at times, abhor their own inclination are overwhelmingly likely to continue to offend. Psychological treatment can help but it is far from being a panacea. Paedophiles can use the time when they are treated in custody as an opportunity to associate with other sex offenders and form alliances.

Because of the propensity of paedophiles to repeat and magnify their offences, there is a good case for Michael Howard's plan to establish a national register of convicted paedophiles. Although the National Criminal Intelligence Service already has information on some 4,000 paedophiles, the data held is patchy. A comprehensive list and a legal requirement on the part of any

offender to register their current address would be an improvement. So, also would be the proposal to make it a criminal offence for a convicted paedophile to apply to work with children. Civil libertarians will cavil at the monitoring of offenders after they have paid their debt to society. But most child sex offenders are already in the grip of a condition that severely restricts their freedom of action.

Changing British law, however, has only a limited effect on what has become an international problem. Freedom of movement within the EU, the easy and furtive communication of the Internet as well as the relaxed sexual mores and lower age of consent in countries such as Holland have taken the problem out of domestic control. The trade in child pornography, which excites and incites, has grown. Much of the material portrays acts that permanently scar. Resources devoted to pursuing those who send this material would lead in due course to those who commit the acts.

The example of Holland, where looser legislation, not least on the age of consent, has attracted paedophiles should alert society to the erosion of barriers between sexual maturity and vulnerable innocence here. The deployment of pre-pubescent images by fashion houses and magazines may seem daringly provocative but it chips at the taboos which protect our children. The same is true of the marketing of the tools of allure, such as make-up, to children and the treatment of sex as a casual yet compulsory part of life by teenage magazines. The commercialisation of children's sexuality demeans us all.

The press has, traditionally, treated paedophile crimes with the utmost restraint. Far from giving lurid attention to detail, journalists have deliberately excised much detail from their reporting of cases. Detail, it is thought, might only interest the prurient and the potential offender. Society's instinctive revulsion is a proper prejudice. It is appropriate, however, to draw attention to the censorship that has marked reporting. The scale and depravity of some reported crimes is more than the public may popularly imagine and could give rise to an even greater clamour for action than currently exists. Charleroi is both exceptional and, in its way typical, of a threat to our most vulnerable. A growing knowledge of the nature of the crimes committed there leaves society with no excuse for inaction.

LESSON OF GROZNY

Lebed must be allowed his Chechen solution

The accusation by Aleksandr Lebed, the new Kremlin security supremo, that unnamed Kremlin officials forged President Yeltsin's signature on the military decree threatening Grozny with all-out attack has brought Russian politics to a new crisis. It has underlined the fact that the Russian leader is extremely sick, unable to control Kremlin policy during the bloodiest armed uprising inside Russia for 50 years and at the mercy of shadowy aides purporting to act in his name. Mr Yeltsin's second term has barely begun; yet his extended absence has already paralysed government while the open confrontation between General Lebed and Anatoli Kulkov, the Interior Minister, gives a foretaste of the battle for succession. The Russian military, meanwhile, stands ominously in the wings, resentful, humiliated, ambitious and insubordinate.

The immediate crisis is the renewed fighting in Chechnya. The deadly timing of the Chechen fighters' capture of Grozny just before Mr Yeltsin's inauguration inflicted more than a military and political humiliation on Moscow; it exposed the army's confusion, low morale, duplicity and brutal tactics. Military leaders are now in vengeful mood. They are determined — against all the lessons of past failures — to use Russia's weaponry and air power to bomb the Chechens into surrender. They have sabotaged ceasefires, ignored promises of safe passage for the hapless refugees and made a mockery of General Lebed's exploratory peace talks with Chechen leaders.

Russia's Army has learnt nothing from history, and little even from the past two years of conflict. The Chechens cannot be

subdued by mass bombing. Even if Grozny is reduced to rubble like Dresden — and this is the kind of slaughter envisaged by local commanders — the Chechens will resist. The raw, young, homesick Russian recruits on the ground have no stomach for a fight and no longer believe that they can win. The continuing determination of their commanders to send them to squalid deaths could well lead to mutiny.

General Lebed sees this clearly. He has real experience of warfare, having commanded the Russian forces in Moldova and successfully extricated them from a brief civil war. He knows that the Chechen situation is very different; this conflict now is unwinnable. Having forced the dismissal of Pavel Grachev, the corrupt and hawkish former defence minister, and been given overall responsibility to stanch the Chechen wound, he has lost no time in setting up the framework for real peace talks. Yesterday he began direct talks with rebel leaders. The threat to begin mass bombing — one that was being already implemented before the promised deadline to allow refugees to leave — undermines everything he is trying to do.

A long-term political solution can be found; the Chechens may be willing to accept independence in all but name and should be encouraged to accept an accommodation similar to that Moscow has reached with Tatarstan, another Muslim enclave. All it takes is political will in Moscow. That is why Mr Yeltsin's full authority is needed. General Lebed has rightly tried to expose the deception and vacillation at the top; the West, too, should warn Moscow that further bloodshed is unacceptable.

TWO GENTLEMEN REVIVED

Clouds, critics, Concorde and other troubles of the Globe

Thunder and lightning. Roar of aircraft turning for Heathrow. Enter Chorus:

All the world's a flight path,
And all the men and women merely shuttles:
They have their landing and their taking off,
And as is writ upon our wooden O,
Concordia discors, that one is Concorde.
Welcome Shakespeare to the Globe restored.
But why start with your feeblest play of all?
WS: Master of Ceremonies would have it so
Because his wife hath had a dreadful dream,
And I was always keen on dreaming wives
From Calpurnia to her i' the Scottish play.
And *The Two Gentlemen* are not that bad.
They have my later theme of young love lost,
Ruffled friends and the first rustic clown.
And the first comic dog upon the stage.
And my resourceful heroine Julia
Foresadows Rosalind and Viola.
Its finest hour was as a musical
By Joseph Papp in 1971.
Chorus: O for a tongue of brass,
To make itself heard above this constant din
Of aircraft, sirens and pneumatic drills.

WS: Your modern player is a Luvvie wimp.
And actors are the opposite of people.
Dick Burbage could make the welkin roar.
Irving or Wolfit whom they mocked as "Sir"
Was clearly audible across the Thames.
And even I, poor player as I was,
Could roar "I love you" as a nightingale.
As gently as 'twere any sucking dove.
Chorus: Now the old player of Antonio
Hath broke his leg before the opening night,
And not as players cry to "break a leg".
To wish each other luck, poor silly gulls.
But literally, in thy first balcony scene.
WS: In my time, this phrase to break a leg
Meant bear a bastard, another stock theme.
But cease thy carping, cankered critic, crow.
As forfeit thou shalt pay for thine own seat.
Unheard of penalty for such as thee,
To teach thee better manners. For the Globe
Restored as when myself did play the Ghost,
Will bring new glory to old London town.
Children will come for 'A's, tourists for ease,
Scholars for research, groundlings for fun,
As the great Globe itself comes back to life.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Have the arts conceded their civilising role to science?

From Professor George Steiner

Sir, Daniel Johnson's thoughtful critique of my Edinburgh Festival lecture does me honour ("The scientific apocalypse of George Steiner", August 17).

My point was not any fatuous proposal as to the close of the Festival. I sought to point out that it is "anniversary" moments and peaks which should invite a closer look as to both past ideals and future hopes. Too many of the other festivals which now spangle the map have outlived themselves and become routine, or worse, artistically as well as commercially. I ended my remarks by saluting an Edinburgh Festival now "fifty years young".

However, as Johnson notes, the issues are larger. So very few humanists have had the humility but often enthralling experience of working and living among top-flight scientists. I have had that privilege, first at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, then at Churchill College, Cambridge.

I remain unrepentant in my hunch that intellectual energies, imaginative boldness and sheer fun are, currently, more abundant in the sciences than they are in the humanities. Courteous inquiries by colleagues in the sciences render even more embarrassing the casualist jargon, the pretentious triviality which now dominate so much of literary theory and humanistic studies. What is more byzantine than "post-modernism"?

Can bridges be built across a divide made inevitably wider by the languages of mathematics? To a Thomas Mann or a Musil much of the poetry of science was still available. Perhaps music and architecture are the vital link. Hence the pertinence of the problem to the Edinburgh Festival.

Daniel Johnson invokes the historical-political background to my work in fiction and non-fiction. Rightly so. May I put it summarily?

I am unable to accept that the condition of the arts, of philosophic argument, of humanistic studies should have emerged unscathed, unexamined from the particular bestiality of our age. From the century of the death camps, both Nazi and Stalinist, of the return to torture, of persistent massacre.

In these matters, the arts and "hu-

mane letters" have too often been neutral or even ornamentally collaborative. The doubts I raise are not "apocalyptic" — a facile word. They are, I believe, frightened common sense.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE STEINER,
Churchill College, Cambridge,
August 17.

From Mr Keith Walmsley

Sir, Daniel Johnson fails to address the almost total failure of so-called humanising culture to make people kinder, more considerate, more honest. He certainly fails to appreciate the despair that drives so incomparably literate a wordsmith as Steiner to seek salvation even in higher mathematics.

Mr Johnson would have the arts continue their "humanising role". What role? They entertain, they delight; they do not (without much more) improve. Those who wept at Schubert quartets operated ovens that gassed children. Our massive education budget, funding content-like qualifications, fails to inhibit a mass culture all too often characterised by the lout.

Highly cultivated, widely read, usually sensitive "humanised" men can, and often do, behave in a manner wholly vile. We all know this to be true. These are the paradoxes Steiner challenges us to address.

The arts do not civilise. They make people better informed. A gulf yawns between intellectual response and moral action.

To teach people to be kind, to teach them that we must always cohabit with consideration, that worthwhile discrimination must always involve the heart: these things can only be achieved by dedicated and oh so rare example — preferably over wine.

Yours sincerely,
KEITH WALMSLEY,
Drury St Michael,
Drury, Lincolnshire,
August 19.

From Professor Thomas Lehner

Sir, Unfortunately, those who have never experienced the heightened emotion and at times sheer poetry of discovery, understanding or solving a natural phenomenon, will not appreciate that science is just as civilising as the arts can be, except that it is based on observable and quantifiable data

which is open to experimental verification. The scientific discipline is, however, difficult, with its own language and methodology that are evolving all the time, and few people are prepared to keep abreast of new developments. Indeed, the faster the progress and the greater the depth of understanding in a scientific discipline, the more impenetrable the technical language becomes, leaving not only the laity but also scientists in other disciplines perplexed. It is language that separates *The Two Cultures* of C. P. Snow, yet the exchange between arts and science is essential for civilisation to flourish.

The accusation that science is utilitarian, unlike the humanities, is untenable. When Galileo, Copernicus, Newton, Einstein or Darwin postulated their respective theories I doubt if they were concerned with the utility of their findings, but only to offer a rational understanding of the natural order. The fact that some of the findings of basic sciences can be applied to or indeed that a scientific question can be formulated for a utilitarian purpose is the additional strength and not weakness of science.

Scientists ought to be greatly encouraged that a brilliant man, with a lifelong preoccupation with Homer, Sophocles, Tolstoy, Racine, Goethe, Shakespeare, Kierkegaard and Wittgenstein, to mention only some of George Steiner's literary interests, concludes that the culture of science deserves the attention, support and esteem bestowed on the arts.

Yours faithfully,
THOMAS LEHNER,
United Medical and Dental Schools of Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals,
Department of Immunology,
London Bridge, SE1,
August 20.

From Sir Alan Cottrell, FRS
Sir, Daniel Johnson's attempt to separate science from the arts, into what seems to be a lower category, was answered many years ago by Keats: "Beauty is truth, truth beauty."

Science is simply the disciplined search for truth.
Yours faithfully,
ALAN COTTRELL,
40 Maids Causeway, Cambridge,
August 17.

powers, especially the traditional enemy, Greece. The Athens-instigated 1974 coup against Makarios provided the ideal opportunity.

It is commonly asserted that Ankara holds the key to a Cyprus settlement, but what will induce Ankara to turn that key? The answer lies in devising a solution which affords adequate safeguard to the Turks' national interest, as they see it, while simultaneously affording reassurance for Turkish Cypriots. Only then is it likely that Ankara will exert pressure on Mr Denktas to settle the intercommunal differences, for then this will be in its national interest.

For their part the Greek Cypriots should recognise that, unless they concede an arrangement of this nature, partition will continue, with the risk that northern Cyprus will be annexed to Turkey.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS HENN
(Chief of Staff, UN Force in Cyprus, and Commander, British contingent, 1972-74),
Royal Oak House,
Stoke Trister, Wincanton, Somerset,
August 19.

Yours faithfully,
HERMANN BONDI,
Churchill College, Cambridge,
August 20.

Postal strike
From Mr Stephen Wainde
Sir, Faced with the prospect of another postal strike tomorrow I bought a fax machine yesterday. I am now able to communicate instantly at considerably less than 20p per letter. This letter is the very first one via my new machine. I look forward to many years of cheap, reliable and instant correspondence.

Royal Mail should take note: my experience cannot be unique.
Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN WAINDÉ,
27 Lansdowne Road,
Tonbridge, Kent,
August 21.

Because of the delays resulting from the postal strikes it would be useful, where possible, if letters intended for publication could be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Suitably light music
From Mr Richard Saxby-Soffe
Sir, It is an excellent idea from Mrs Fiona Lauder (letter, August 23) that men in orchestras should be free to wear cool white jackets. It would be so much more comfortable both for the performer and the viewer. In practice the cost might be prohibitive, so why not settle for uniform white shirts and bow ties?

Yours faithfully,
R. SAXBYSOFFE,
Longacre, Long Garden Walk,
Farnham, Surrey,
August 20.

Making a choice on childbirth

From the President of the Royal College of Midwives

Sir, I usually enjoy Dr Thomas Stuttaford's columns but I take issue with his use (August 15) of a personal anecdote from some years ago to illustrate the supposed dangers of home birth. All the evidence elicited so far shows that home delivery is a safe option for women at low risk, ie, those who are having a first baby and those who have had a vaginal first delivery.

A doctor would be very unlikely to be present at a home birth nowadays, as normal birth is not their field of expertise — they would invariably leave it to the midwife. If there were any complications, the woman would be transferred to the nearest maternity hospital in order to have treatment from the obstetric team.

In the UK normal births are conducted by midwives who lead the world in their education and system of supervision, and who are qualified to care for women during normal pregnancy, normal labour and the normal puerperium. If any complications occur the midwife must refer to a doctor. The doctor she would choose would be a specialist in the field — an obstetrician — not usually a GP, who may not have seen normal birth since his days as a medical student.

If a woman books for a hospital birth there is only one place for her to have her baby — hospital. If a woman books for a home birth she has two choices — she may have her baby at home, or she may have her baby in hospital, either because it is more painful than she imagined and she would like an epidural, or because the labour is lasting too long and she transfers to have her labour speeded up, or because complications are developing and hospital transfer seems a wise choice.

Yours sincerely,
CAROLINE FLINT, President,
The Royal College of Midwives,
15 Mansfield Street, W1,
August 18.

From Dr Rona Campbell

Sir, Dr Thomas Stuttaford's assertion that "in Britain the safest place for the baby and mother is a well-run hospital labour ward" is not, as he suggests, incontrovertible. An extensive review of research about the risks and benefits of giving birth in different settings, which I published with Alison Macfarlane in 1994, concluded that there was no evidence to support the claim. Since the first edition of this review was published in 1987 the House of Commons Health Committee and the Expert Maternity Group (set up by the Department of Health to make recommendations on how to improve NHS maternity services) have both acknowledged that there is no simple answer to the question of safety and place of birth. They have recommended that women be given clear, unbiased information and allowed to choose where to give birth.

Yours faithfully,
RONA CAMPBELL,
University of Bristol,
Department of Social Medicine,
Cannynge Hall,
Whiteladies Road, Bristol,
August 15.

Modern medicine

From Ms Rosemary Martin

Sir, On the same day that Sara Starkey (letter, August 15) launched an attack on medical sciences and "the vast sums [put] into research charity coffers", Janette Proud appeared on page 6 with her "miracle" premature baby, Sophie, who would not have survived without the help of either.

Yours faithfully,
ROSEMARY MARTIN
(Mother of Christopher,
born October 16, 1988; 11b 12oz),
Pebble Cottage, Greengraves Road,
Dundonald, Belfast,
August 15.

A move for Sir Walter?

From Mr Jed Falby

Sir, Dr Brian Porter was right (letter, August 12; see also letter, August 19). Sir Walter Raleigh stands in Whitehall invisible among Second World War generals. A new location for his statue should not, however, be in front of the National Gallery.

The only suitable and fitting place for Sir Walter is back home where it all began, either at his birthplace of Hayes Barton Farm in East Budleigh, Devon, or honouring the new Raleigh Centre, proposed to open in time for the millennium in Budleigh Salterton.

Yours faithfully,
JED FALBY,
96 Granary Lane,
Budleigh Salterton, Devon,
August 19.

Pain killer

From Mr John Whelan

Sir, In the light of your report today that erotic thoughts can overcome pain, should fans in agony over the memory of England's poor sporting record be counselled to lie back and think of sex?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WHELAN,
13 The Avenue,
Bedford Park, Chiswick, W4,
August 21.

COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE
August 21: The Lady Susan Hussey has succeeded Lady Dugdale as Lady in Waiting to the Queen.

Birthdays today

Mr Dave Alderson, former Governor, Exeter prison, 63; Miss Mary Allen, secretary-general, Arts Council of England, 45; Mr P.H.B. Allsop, publisher, 72; Sir John Banham, chairman, Tarmac, 56; Mr Marc Bohan, fashion designer, 70; Mr Ray Bradbury, author, 76; Professor Sir Colin Buchanan, urban planner, 89; Mr Henri Cartier-Bresson, photographer, 88; Major-General Earl Cathcart, 77; Sir Richard Catling, former Commissioner of Kenyan Police, 84; Professor Sir Cyril Astley Clarke, geneticist, 89; Professor R.H. Clarke, director, National Radiological Protection Board, 53; Mr A. Coppel, group chief executive, Queens Moat Houses, 46; Mr Steve Davis, snooker player, 39; Judge Anne Downey, 60; Mr Derek Fatchett, MP, 51; Mr Max Hebditch, director, Museum of London, 59; Mr Donald MacLeary, ballet dancer, 59; Sir James Menter, former Principal, Queen Mary College, 55; Mr Alan Michael, MP, 53; the Very Rev William Morris, Dean of the Chapel Royal in Scotland, 71; Sir Leo Piatzky, civil servant, 77; Mr Boris Schapiro, former world bridge champion, 87; General Norman Schwarzkopf, former Commander US Central Command, 62; Mr Karlheinz Stockhausen, composer and conductor, 68; Sir Anthony Tuke, former chairman, Barclays Bank, 76; Mr Mats Wilander, tennis player, 32.

Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: Comme Jean de La Perouse, Pacific explorer, Albi, France, 1741; Henry Maudslay, inventor of the metal lathe, Woolwich, 1771; Edward Pusey, theologian, leader of the Oxford Movement, Pusey, Berkshire, 1800; Samuel Langley, aeronautics pioneer, Roxbury, Massachusetts, 1834; Claude Debussy, composer, St Germain-en-Laye, 1862; Jacques Lipchitz, sculptor, Druskininkai, Lithuania, 1891; Percy George Herbert Fender, Surrey and England cricketer, London, 1892; Dorothy Parker, wit, West End, New Jersey, 1893.

DEATHS: Richard III, reigned 1483-85, killed at the battle of Bosworth Field, 1485; George Lyttleton, 1st Baron Lyttleton, statesman, historian and poet, Hagley, Worcestershire, 1773; Jean-Honoré Fragonard, painter, Paris, 1806; Warren Hastings, 1st Governor-General of India, Calcutta, 1793; George Shillibee, pioneer of omnibuses, Brighton, 1866; Robert Cecil, 3rd Marquess of Salisbury, Prime Minister 1885-86, 1892-95, 1900 and 1900-02, Hatfield House, Hertfordshire, 1903; Michael Collins, Irish patriot and IRA leader, killed in ambush, Beal-na-Blath, Cork, 1922; William Morris, 1st Viscount Nuffield, motor car magnate and philanthropist, Hungercombe, Oxfordshire, 1963; Jomo Kenyatta, President of Kenya 1964-78, Mombasa, 1978.

The English Civil War began, 1642.

United States annexed New Mexico, 1846.

British Telecom launched the world's first pocketphones to operate within 100 yards of a public base station, 1969.

Appointment

Mr John Deacon Riley to be a full-time chairman of social security, medical, disability and child support appeal tribunals from August 27.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Stephen John Oliver, Team Rector of Leeds City in the diocese of Ripon to the Residency Canon at St Paul's Cathedral vacant on the elevation of Christopher Hill to the Suffragan See of Stafford.

The Rev Mark Ward, Curate, Harland Coast Team Ministry to be Vicar, South Molton Team Ministry (Exeter).

The Rev Mark Wigglesworth, Assistant Curate, Gooles to be Priest-in-charge, Askern, Doncaster (Sheffield).

The Rev Brian Wilson, Vicar, Hornsea w Arwick: now reappointed Rural Dean of North Holderness (York), for a period of five years.

The Rev Andrew Yates, Rector, Aylesham w Adisham (Canterbury): to be Priest-in-charge, Dudley, St Augustine and Chaplain (part-time) to the Merry Hill Shopping Centre (Worcester).

The Rev Sian Yates, Curate, St Martin and St Paul, Canterbury (Canterbury): to be Priest-in-charge, Dudley, St James, and Education Chaplain (part-time), diocese Worcester.

Resignations and retirements
Canon David Boyes, Priest-in-charge, Earl Soham, and an Honorary Canon of St Edmundsbury Cathedral (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich): to retire December 1.

The Rev Hugh Cocksedge, Chaplain, St Nicolas, Ankara, Turkey (Europe): to retire October 20.

The Rev Michael Cripps, Chaplain, St Andrew's, Pau, France (Europe): to retire November 30.

The Rev Kenneth Loraine, Priest-in-charge, Haynes, and Stewardship Resources Adviser for Bedfordshire (St Albans): to retire September 30.

Institute of Chartered Secretaries & Administrators

The following have graduated in the June 1996 examinations of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries & Administrators:

Abankro E. Adams M. Adasani F. Y. Akosah-Bempah O. F. Allen C. E. A. Allen E. Alves C. L. C. Athukorala M. N. Atwell K. A. Azong J. A.

Barrett E. M. Barry A. J. Benjamin Y. P. Black J. Boateng G. Boode J. E. Boyce P. L. Bray E. Brophy D. C. Brophy D. L. Brown C. M. Burns A. K. Butler P. J.

Caine P. T. Canty P. J. Carey G. J. Carter P. L. Casie Chirity M. S. Chikosi P. T. Clarke I. D. Colgan N. Colling A. Cooney L. E. J. Cotter E. R. Cutler T. L.

Dale B. G. Davies Y. M. De Weerd P. H. Dempsey A. P. Derrett S. J. Doherty S. Donnelly S. G. Downey M. A. Duck J. M. Dunlop D. P. Dunne S.

Edwards J. M. Edwards W. E. A.

Farrow M. J. W. Fasanya M. A. Fitzpatrick W. R. S. Forde P. A.

Garbe M. J. Gardiner L. M. Garnham R. A. H. Gibson G. D. Goth P. J. Greenley I. S. Groves D. F. Gully R. J.

Hawkes S. N. Haynes C. S. Heath M. M. Hodgson S. Hopkins P. F. Hussain F.

Jamesskutty N. T. Johnston C. S. Jones C. E. Jones G. W.

Karr G. C. Keegan H. Kemp R. G. Kingston A. J. Kinsella O. Kirtley V. Klobodu M. Y. Kodagoda S. J. C.

Lake T. X. R. Langmead T. S. Lawson M. A. Lintell C. M. Lockwood M. J. Long D. Love M. A. Lydon A. J.

Madoshi F. F. H. Mann J. L. Manning S. A. Martin D. A. McClure L. McGuire S. E. J. McKenna C. M. Miles L. E. Monaghan R. Moore A. S. Moore J. Moran M. Moran P. F. Morris R. P. Murugayah-Alpers E.

O'Brien T. E. O'Malley A. M. Odumodu K. M. Oluosole O. Orange H. L. O. Oluabute E. B.

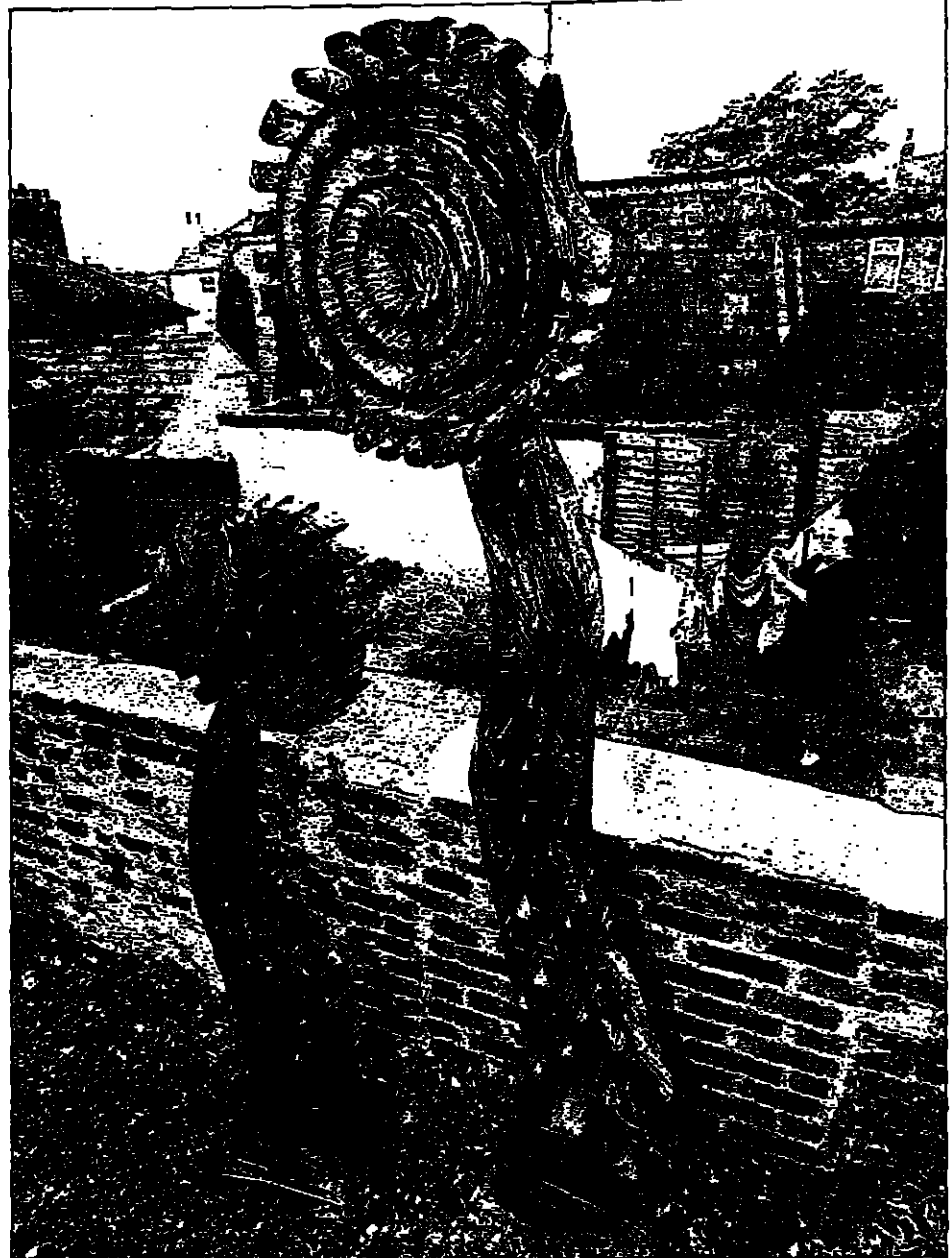
Pak Chui Wei, Patel H. Patel T. Payne C. J. Peddie S. E. Pengelly J. B. Phadraj M. N. G. Ponniah R. A. Portal I. J.

Richardson L. J. Ringland W. J. Richards P. W. Russell S. A.

Schmalenbach C. Scott J. M. Sheppard R. S. Skinner J. M. E. Skippen T. C. Smith S. X. Stafford P. A. Stapleton G. W.

Taylor D. J. A. Thomas H. A. Thompson R. Tibbles J. N. Tong R. Y. L. Trickett D. J. Troallic F. T.

Warner G. M. Warner W. Watson G. E. Weldon R. Wickramaratne K. Wise Y. Young A. P.



These sunflower-like trees by the artist Walter Bailey have just appeared over the garden wall of a house in Arundel, West Sussex, where the town's festival opens tomorrow. They form part of a "gallery trail" of artistic works all over Arundel

Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management

CIWEM Diploma 1996

The pass list of the 170 successful candidates for the May diploma examination is as follows:

Highest scoring candidate: Andrew Antrobus, Isobel Austin, Tracy Bagby, Lee Barrett, Mark Barrington, Jerome Barton, Alan Baskerville, Nicholas Bialynicki-Birula, Brian Beales, Robin Blundell, Matthew Bolton, Matthew Bower, Christopher Bowles, Richard Bruce, Emma Broadbent, Sara Bruss, Margaret Byron.

Nicole Castano, Joanne Callan, Marion Chambers, Mark Clarke, Roy Clarke, Ian Claxton, Elinor Cordiner, Deborah Cottam, Anthony Cox, Iain Cruickshank, Alan Davies, Marietta Demetriadi, Peter Dempsey, Alan Dixon, Robert Dickson, Catharine Doidge, Brendan Dolan, Sara Edwards, Jeffrey Edwards, Thomas Enright, Robin Espley, Nicolas Evison, Christopher Featherstone, Melissa Fitzhugh, Marcus Fry, Andrew Galley, Jonathan Gibson, Stephen Gormley, Anthony Guay, Joanne

Haigh, Ian Hall, Neil Halliday, Craig Hammond, Nicola Harding, Ambrose Harrington, Vanessa Hart, Robin Harvey, Lorna Haughton, Philip Hayes, Christopher Hazell, Anthony Henry, Claire Henderson, Paul Hickey, Philip High, Jennifer Hilliard, Linda Hoggett, Philip Holden, Dominic Hutchings, Mark Hutchinson, Katherine Ivall, Carole Jacklin, Rachael Jackson, Andrew Jerrard, Ian Kennerly, David Kinsey, Georgia Knight, Andrew Lawson, Paul Linwood, Lisa Marie Lister, John Lyons, Gillian Macadam, Morris Macleod, Ruth Maddocks, Graeme Mason, Colin Mathieson, Gary Meades, Stephen Mee, Sarah Mills, Paul Milward, Stephen Monk, Leonie Morgan, Jeffrey Morley, Brian Morrow, Suzanne Morton, John Mould, Lee Mountford, Angela Murray, Paul Naylor.

Lisa Osborn, David Owens, Andrew Page, John Parker, Simon Parker, Jane Parry, Kevin Parsons, Emma Passmore, Vinu Patel, Ian Pathayjohns, Juliette Payne, Andrew Peet, Andrew Philip,

Neil Pinder, Matthew Pluke, Michael Pointing, Jonathan Pouting, John Poole, Margaret Rae, Paul Roberts, Michael Robinson, Julie Robinson, Kay Robinson, Valitha Ross, Helen Rowley.

Paul Sadler, John Sawyer, Matthew Sellick, Paul Sharratt, Martin Shaw, Christine Sheldar, Samantha Shinn, Richard Skinner, Andrew Smith, Rajesh Solanki, Carl Sturtin, Judith Storer, Paul Sturges, Lisa Sumner, Jillian Symes, Mace Talbot, Stephen Taylor, William Thicknes, Sarah Thomas, Laurie Thomsett, Lynne Tindmarsh, Ruth Tipping, Maria Toal, Simon Toms, Christopher Toop, Julie Trafford, Mark Tucker, Neil Tursley, Daragh Turley, Andrew Turner, Innes Urbanski, Sarah Usher, Thomas Walkington-Mayo, Shawn Ward, Jonathan Wass, Ruth Walling, Sharon Weaver, Owen Wedgewood, Gary Wentworth, Michael White, Lesley Wilcock, Katherine Wilkin, Richard Williams, Steven Wilson, David Womack, Kevin Woodward, Helen Yates.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr T.A. Cotterell and **Miss E.J. Berens**
The engagement is announced between Archie, younger son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Cotterell, of London SW1, and Emily, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Henry Berens, of Bournemouth, Hampshire.

Mr W.E.C. England and **Miss S.J. Thomas**
The engagement is announced between William, youngest son of Wing Commander Horace (Mac) England, DFC, RAF (Retd), and Mrs England, of Wokingham, Oxfordshire, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs Rex Thomas, of Angmering, West Sussex.

Mr S.A. Soley and **Miss E.P. Anderson**
The engagement is announced between Stephen, elder son of Mr and Mrs Stephen Soley, of Greenfield, West Yorkshire, and Julia, younger daughter of Mr and the late Mrs Philip Anderson, of Godstow, Surrey.

Mr T.C. Morris and **Señorita P.I. Tena Garcia**
The engagement is announced between Timothy, younger son of the late Major Anthony Morris, of Sherrington, Wiltshire, and Patricia, youngest daughter of the late Ambassador Juan Ignacio Tena and of the late Señora Pilar Garcia-Noreña, of Madrid.

Mr M.C. Pakkenham and **Ms S. Ahn**
The engagement is announced between Marcus, son of the Rev and Mrs Stephen Pakkenham, of Kingsbridge, Devon, and Seon Ahn, daughter of the late Mr B.G. Ahn and of Mrs B.G. Ahn, of Seoul, Korea.

Captain N.J. Fenton and **Miss N.J. Shepherd-Barron**
The engagement is announced between Captain Nicholas Fenton, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Fenton, of Bournemouth, Hampshire, and Nicola, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Shepherd-Barron, of Knodishall, Suffolk.

Mr A.J. Last and **Miss S.J. Bartlett**
The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of Professor and Mrs John Last, of Liverpool, and Sarah, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Giles Bartlett, of Romsey, Hampshire.

Mr D.R.J. Reid and **Miss S.J. Carr**
The engagement is announced between Douglas, eldest son of Mr and Mrs W.L.C. Reid, of Whitechurch, Buckinghamshire, and Samantha, second daughter of Mr and Mrs A.J. Carr, of Alford, Surrey.

Mr N.W. Wallace-Fairbairn and **Miss K.J. O'Donovan**
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, elder son of Mr and Mrs A.J. Wallace-Fairbairn, of Berrington House, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland, and Katherine, elder daughter of The O'Donovan and Madam O'Donovan, of Hollybrook House, Skibbereen, Co Cork.

Mr D.J. Whitmore and **Miss S.E. Barnard**
The engagement is announced between Duncan John, son of Mr and Mrs W.J. Whitmore, of Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, and Susan Frances, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.A. Barnard, of Edinburgh, currently residing in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Marriages

Lord Rodney and **Miss J. Blakeney**
The marriage took place on August 20, in London, between George, son of Lady Rodney and the late Lord Rodney, of Kensington, London, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Rowan Blakeney, of The Old Rectory, Hatherop, Gloucestershire.

Mr R.H. H. Corrie and **Miss N.J. Laidlaw**
The marriage took place on Saturday, August 17, at St Mary the Virgin, Bampton, Oxfordshire, of Mr Roderick Corrie, younger son of Mr and Mrs Hugh Corrie, to Miss Nicola Laidlaw, daughter of Commander and Mrs Oliver Laidlaw.

The bride who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Emily and Olivia Fairbank, Merlin and Anthea Merton, Georgina Corrie, Claudia Criswell, and Hugo Wilson, Mr Anthony Woodward, best man. The reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent in Bali.

Captain J.O. Heyman and **Miss L.J.B. Wise**
The marriage took place on Saturday, August 17, 1996, at St Peter's Church, Titchfield, of Captain James Heyman, Royal Welch Fusiliers, son of Major and Mrs Charles Heyman, of Shropshire, to Miss Lucy Wise, daughter of Mr and Mrs Nicholas

Wise, of Titchfield, Hampshire. The Rev James Mitchell-Innes officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Alice Stewart, Lucy Heyman, Cynthia Scott, Alexandra Tweedie and Jack Mead. Mr Marcus Lawler, Royal Welch Fusiliers, was best man. A guard of honour was formed by members of the Pioneer Platoon of the 1st Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Mr M. de L. Walters and **Miss V.H.E. Aldridge**
The marriage took place on Saturday, August 17, at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Saffron Walden, of Mr Mark de Lancy Walters, elder son of Mr and Mrs Simon Walters, of Dogmersfield, Hampshire, and Miss Victoria Aldridge, daughter of Mr and Mrs Simon Aldridge, of Little Walden, Essex. The Rev John Ramsey and the Rev Laurie Bond officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Louis and Gabrielle Pouget, Georgina and Elizabeth Bull, Charlotte and Emily Mosely, and George Harrington. Mr Barnaby Walters was best man.

A reception was held at Little Walden and the honeymoon is being spent in the Caribbean.

Latest wills

Lady (George) Lee, of Lindrick Common, Worksop, Nottinghamshire, left estate valued at £152,965 net. She left £1,000 each to the RNID and the RNE.

Frank Solari, of Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £121,371 net. He left £25,000 to each of the

following: University Fund of the Guild of Graduates, University of Birmingham, National Trust, Stoke Poges, in need of charity, £75,000 Alpine Club Library, £10,000 to the Royal Institution of Great Britain.

Josephine Clarice Bell, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire, left estate valued at £117,887 net. Apart from £6,000, her estate is to be split between the British Heart Foundation and Cancer Research Campaign.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

DEATHS

BIRTHS

DORSON - Jack Alexander, born to Mrs Susan Dorson, of Queen's Park Hospital, to Simon David and Amanda Jane, on August 19, 1996. A son, 7lb 10oz, 19in. Welcome to the world.

GHANESHI - On August 15th, 1996, at Prince of Wales Hospital, to Eble and Ali, a beautiful daughter, Rahmah, a sister to dafina Alisha.

HAYWOOD - On 20th August in Hong Kong, to Dee and Tim a son, Christopher (15lb).

HUNT - On August 19th 1996, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Elizabeth (nee Hobart) and Julian, a daughter, Isabella.

KELLY - On Thursday 15th August at Prince of Wales Hospital, to the (nee) Foster and Simon, a son, Matthew John (10lb 10oz).

MALPAS - On 20th August 1996, to Susanah (nee Rees) and Johnny, a daughter.

MARSH - On August 19th 1996, to Nicola (nee Leventon) and Philip, a son, Jack.

NEWMARK - To Anne and Keith, on 16th August, a son, Henry Guy, a brother for Olivia and Nathan.

PHILLIPS - On 17th August 1996, at Kahl Hospital, Germany, 3,385 gm, to Elio and Joha, a daughter, Lorraine Angelina Tim.

POWERS - On 20th August 1996, to Rachel (nee Cornwell) and Peter, a son, Thomas William Hayes.

POLLARD - On 17th August 1996, in Pulvisy Forest, to Fiona (nee Macdonald) and Mark, a daughter, Stephanie Rose, a sister for Harley, Charles and Adam.

SEBASTY - On August 18th at the Portland Hospital, to Julie and Steve Sebasty, a beautiful daughter, Emma Louise, a sister for Jack.

DEATHS

BARLEY - On August 20th, Dennis Alfred, 81, of 17, Greenbank Hospital, of Greenbank, Hampshire, died. He was the husband of Mrs. Christopher and Paul and the father of Mrs. Christopher and Paul. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth.

BHAKTHANJAN - Ramanand, son of 19th August 1996, long suffering diabetic. Beloved and devoted father and grandfather who gave so much love and care to his family. He will be sadly missed. He will be missed in peace. He will be missed in peace. He will be missed in peace.

BLANCHARD - Mary (nee Ward), born 25th August 1894 died 19th August 1996. She was the wife of the late Mr. John Blanchard. She was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. She was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. She was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth.

BRADY - Edward Lawrence died peacefully in Bath on 19th August 1996. He was the husband of Mrs. Mary Brady. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth.

BROOKMAN - Peter Richard, OBE, died August 19th, 1996, formerly R.S. Brookman Ltd, of Bournemouth. He was the husband of Mrs. Mary Brookman. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth.

CLAYCOCK - On August 21st, 1996, at the age of 81, to the late Mr. and Mrs. J. Clay of Yorkhill, Bournemouth. He was the husband of Mrs. Mary Clay. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth.

COOPER - On August 21st, 1996, at the age of 81, to the late Mr. and Mrs. J. Cooper of Yorkhill, Bournemouth. He was the husband of Mrs. Mary Cooper. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth.

DEATHS

BURN - Dr. James Marvyn Burn, 80, died August 17th, 1996. He was the husband of Mrs. Mary Burn. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth.

DEADMAN - Edith Marion (formerly Bead), 87, died August 17th, 1996. She was the wife of the late Mr. John Deadman. She was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. She was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. She was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth.

DOUGLAS - "Mollie" Maud Douglas, 80, died August 17th, 1996. She was the wife of the late Mr. John Douglas. She was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. She was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. She was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth.

EDEN - Bernard Stanley, 19th August, 1996. He was the husband of Mrs. Mary Eden. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth.

FISHER - On 20th August, 1996, Dr. C.E. (Ellyott) Fisher, 80, died. He was the husband of Mrs. Mary Fisher. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth.

LAWSON - Peacefully on August 20th, Susan, widow of Sir William and much loved mother of Peter, David, Clare, Penny, Andrew and Eucharist, at Lincoln Cathedral at 12 noon. She was the wife of the late Mr. John Lawson. She was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. She was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. She was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth.

NEVE - Stephen, of Lumbard, Gwynedd, suddenly on Friday August 16th 1996, aged 54. He was the husband of Mrs. Mary Neve. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth.

DEATHS

GRAY - Bill of Cambridge, 66, died August 17th, 1996. He was the husband of Mrs. Mary Gray. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth.

MAITLAND - Pitham Harper on 17th August, aged 66. He was the husband of Mrs. Mary Maitland. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth.

OFFORD - Joy, wife of Col. Eric Offord, 82, died August 17th, 1996. She was the wife of the late Mr. John Offord. She was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. She was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. She was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth.

OWEN - On 19th August, Alfred W. (Pete) M.A. aged 72 years, at hospital in Reading. He was the husband of Mrs. Mary Owen. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth.

POPE - Philip William Pope, 66, died August 17th, 1996. He was the husband of Mrs. Mary Pope. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth.

POPE - Philip William Pope, 66, died August 17th, 1996. He was the husband of Mrs. Mary Pope. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth.

POPE - Philip William Pope, 66, died August 17th, 1996. He was the husband of Mrs. Mary Pope. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth.

DEATHS

POPE - Philip William Pope, 66, died August 17th, 1996. He was the husband of Mrs. Mary Pope. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth.

POPE - Philip William Pope, 66, died August 17th, 1996. He was the husband of Mrs. Mary Pope. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth.

POPE - Philip William Pope, 66, died August 17th, 1996. He was the husband of Mrs. Mary Pope. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth.

POPE - Philip William Pope, 66, died August 17th, 1996. He was the husband of Mrs. Mary Pope. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth.

POPE - Philip William Pope, 66, died August 17th, 1996. He was the husband of Mrs. Mary Pope. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth.

POPE - Philip William Pope, 66, died August 17th, 1996. He was the husband of Mrs. Mary Pope. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth.

POPE - Philip William Pope, 66, died August 17th, 1996. He was the husband of Mrs. Mary Pope. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth.

DEATHS

POPE - Philip William Pope, 66, died August 17th, 1996. He was the husband of Mrs. Mary Pope. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth. He was a member of the St. John's Church, Bournemouth.

POPE - Philip William Pope, 66, died August 17th, 1996. He was the husband of Mrs. Mary Pope

Thomson offers Aegean tourists free-drinks deal

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

THE popular all-inclusive holiday concept is being extended to include local bars and tavernas in two Greek villages. All-inclusive packages mean holidaymakers pay nothing for their entertainment, drinks and meals — but until now this has applied only within the hotel or resort complex. The move comes as tourist numbers to Greece and Portugal this summer are falling.

In its latest brochure, out today, Thomson has extended the scheme to include local

bars and cafés in two villages in Corfu and Crete. Holidaymakers are given a voucher when they book, entitling them to a carafe of wine between two for their evening meal, plus up to 35 free drinks a week each, in the local bars. The project has, however, been criticised by the anti-drink campaigners Alcohol Concern. A spokesman says: "The 35 free drinks limit is more than the Government recommended safe drinking level. Obviously, people like to let their hair down on holiday,

but though such levels may not have a long-term effect on health, it would be a real concern if the scheme led to any kind of anti-social behaviour."

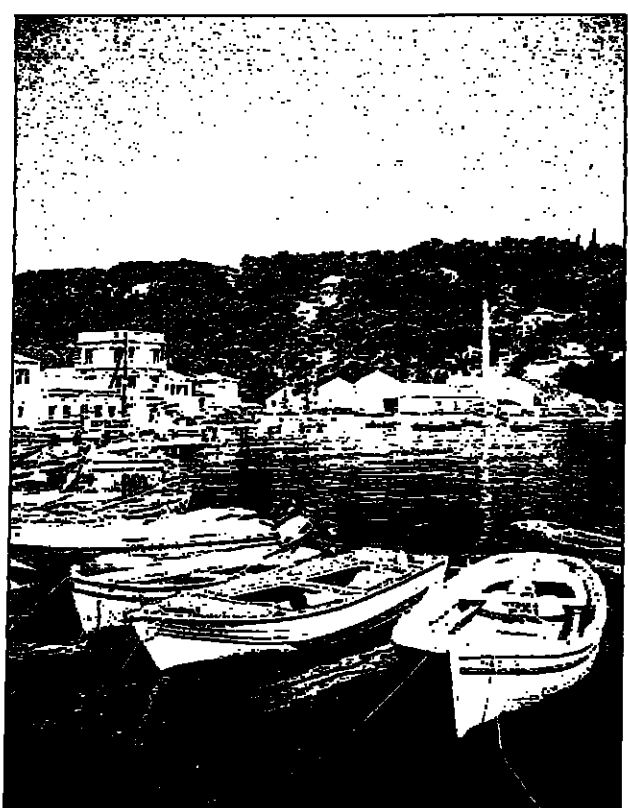
But for most holiday drinkers, the number of free vouchers seems modest.

A seven-night, all-inclusive holiday at Arillas, on Corfu, costs from £369 and a 14-night stay at Analipsis, on Crete, costs from £485. The price of the holiday to Arillas includes breakfast, snack lunch, dinner with a carafe of wine per couple and drinks at a choice of three tavernas and two bars, as well as at the hotel bar, sunbeds, watersports, entertainment and one shopping excursion to Corfu town.

For stays at Analipsis — described as a village of 1,000 inhabitants, one bakery and a church — the price includes all the same facilities, as well as unlimited wine and water during meals.

The all-inclusive idea, which began in America, is catching on fast with British holidaymakers. Unlike the Americans, who often like to stay in heavily guarded and isolated "resorts", British tourists prefer to become part of the local community. Many have in the past complained that all-inclusive resorts do not give such an opportunity and encourage them to stay within the hotel confines, contributing nothing to the local economy.

Thomson believes that by bringing the local bar-owners into the scheme — paying them in advance for drinks, whether taken or not — the holiday offer will encourage clients to make more of Greek social life.



Watering holes: Greece packages include bars and tavernas

Greece and Algarve feel pinch

BRITISH tour operators are blaming taxes in Greece for driving away visitors, and Portugal is blaming its decline on a general economic malaise in Europe. *Harvey Elliott writes.*

A leading tour operator claims that the "indifferent" attitude of Greek tourist authorities has led to a 24 per cent slump in the number of UK visitors this summer.

Jerry Muller, the head of Flying Colours Leisure Group, which owns Sunset Holidays and Club 18-30, says

that a decision by the Greeks to wipe £3 off the £15 passenger tax imposed on foreign visitors was "too little, too late".

He adds: "The entire tax should be withdrawn and money should be invested without delay, particularly in improving the disgraceful airport facilities that are common throughout the Greek islands."

In the Algarve, foreign tourists numbers are down by 8.6 per cent on the same period a year ago, according to Eliderio Viegas, head of the

Algarve Association of Hotels and Tourism Businesses. The number of British visitors, the main source of revenue, has dropped by 10 to 15 per cent.

The region's many golf courses and long sandy beaches have been responsible for bringing in 60 per cent of Portugal's total tourism receipts. But Mr Viegas says that tourists are spending less as the escudo has been strengthened by the Government to meet economic targets for joining a EU single currency by 1999.



Riot police break up fighting between Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots at the UN buffer zone in Dherinia

Cyprus 'safe' despite clashes

By MARTIN SYMINGTON

HOLIDAY companies and Cypriot tourism authorities are anxiously playing down suggestions of any risk to tourists, resulting from heightened tensions between the partitioned island's Greek and Turkish sectors.

Last week two young Greek Cypriots were killed in separate incidents when they and other demonstrators breached the UN-patrolled buffer zone, demanding an end to Turkish occupation of northern Cyprus.

"Our belief is that these are isolated incidents," says Orestis Rossides, director of the Cyprus Tourist Board in

London. "Taking into account the advice of our Government, the British Foreign Office and the experience of tour operators, we are able to assure the public that it is quite safe to visit Cyprus."

The Foreign Office is advising British travellers to both northern and southern Cyprus to avoid the UN buffer zone, particularly in the region of Dherinia. It was near here that a youth was shot dead by Turkish soldiers last Wednesday, when he crossed the border and climbed a flagpole.

Noel Josephides, managing director of Greek-Cypriot specialist Sunvil Holidays and currently in Cyprus himself, says: "Local people are disappointed at the barbaric Turkish response to youthful innocence and frustration. But holidaymakers are not being affected in any way."

A spokeswoman for Thomson Holidays says: "We have approximately 12,000 people in Cyprus at any given time and have had no cancellations at all resulting from these incidents. "However, we are keeping

all our clients informed of developments via notice boards, are advising them to avoid the buffer zone, and we have cancelled excursions to Nicosia."

Northern Cyprus is served by a few specialist tour operators and receives far fewer visitors than the south, all of whom have to fly via mainland Turkey.

A spokesman for one of these, echoed the assurances of his Greek counterparts. "Our business hasn't been affected by this. We have had a couple of inquiries from clients about safety, but no cancellations," he says.

Big clean up for Naples

By CLAUDIA PARSONS

THE famous coastline of Naples, in places scarred by years of industrial development, is set for a facelift under a new administration that is trying to woo tourists back to one of Italy's most glorious and notorious cities.

The £900 million project is already under way in Bagnoli, in western Naples. The area is dominated by a vast steel works that used to be the centre of southern Italy's biggest industrial complex. It was closed down four years ago after decades of decline.

Thousands of jobs were lost, helping to push unemployment in the region to 26.2 per cent. The industrial years also left a legacy of pollution that will take three years to clean up.

The answer that has been put forward by enthusiastic city officials is to convert the

entire 750-acre site into the city's biggest park, surrounded by hotels, restaurants, a clean beach and a marina. The Government has given the project the go-ahead, and work is set to start in September.

Local entrepreneurs have already cleaned up a short stretch of sand in the shadow of the steel works, and a small band of intrepid bathers regularly brave the murky waters.

Officials say that within a decade they will have restored Bagnoli to its former role as a holiday village. It lies near the volcanic area of Pozzuoli, renowned for its healing springs in use since Roman times. Cicero had a villa there.

The Campania region, of which Naples is the capital, saw a 25.3 per cent increase in foreign visitors in 1994, and a further rise of 10.6 per cent in 1995. This was largely due to

the popularity of top attractions like the Roman city of Pompeii and the glamorous island of Capri.

But Antonio Bassolino, the new mayor of Naples, aims to lure these tourists into the city itself. He has already won public favour by clearing traffic-clogged streets and renovating public buildings and squares that had been in a state of decay for decades.

The Bagnoli project and a continuing drive to restore historic buildings in the city centre may just succeed in putting Naples back on the Grand Tour itinerary.

Assuming, of course, that traditional bureaucracy doesn't swamp the current mood of efficiency and optimism. Bureaucracy has stifled efficiency in the past, but Signor Bassolino seems determined to break new ground.

Picasso goes on show in Denmark

By RICHARD DUCE

DENMARK'S Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, outside Copenhagen, is bringing together an impressive collection of Picasso's art for an exhibition entitled *Picasso and the Mediterranean*, which starts on September 20 and lasts until January.

The exhibition is bound to be an attraction for art lovers in the UK. A museum spokeswoman says: "It's something special, probably the biggest exhibition of his works. The insurance bill will be huge." The last time the museum staged a Picasso exhibition, a vandal slashed a painting, causing a one million kroner (£100,000) repair bill.

Picasso's art will be interspersed with Iberian, pre-Roman and Greek art.

IN THE TIMES ON SATURDAY

TRAVEL to Australia and India, walk the Dolomites, ride a train through Wessex, survive Paris with children and plan your next holiday with Travel Tips.

Fares set to rise on long-distance flights

By STEVE KEENAN

AIRLINES are considering raising long-distance fares considerably following a sharp rise in demand.

Prices on the busy UK to America routes have already risen by 10 per cent in the year ending June 30, according to American Express.

But airlines are still reporting full flights and believe the market could have withstood greater fare increases, says Mike Gooley, the chairman of Trailfinders, a ticket agent.

"You can't find a seat to America at the moment," he says. "Carriers are saying they could have charged another 10 per cent and still have been full."

"I believe fares will rise on long-haul routes. The good times are over in terms of late, cheap tickets and there is a considerable shortage of seats to any destination."

"The airlines have had a long, lean time and have come out of it having learnt a lesson: not to buy too many new aeroplanes."

"Prices will go up and will do so rapidly. But it won't hurt the market. South Africa has really got going and the Far East continues to grow. And Australia, although it has become a bit stagnant, will come back," he says.

Long-haul travel is the buzz area of travel at present. Research by Lunn Poly shows the sector accounts for 16 per cent of summer holidays, up 10 per cent from last year.



A weekend in Boston

Four nights from £379 per person
Departures throughout November 1996

Known as the gateway to New England and birthplace of the American Revolution, Boston offers a fascinating mix of colonial charm and present-day America. Walk the famous "Freedom Trail" which traces the city's rich heritage, stroll through Boston Common or explore Beacon Hill with its quaint houses and cobbled streets. For shopping visit Quincy Market with its unique vendors and sample New England's famous seafood in one of the many speciality restaurants. Your stay includes a visit to Worcester Common shopping centre where famous branded goods can be bought at discount.

An optional half day city sightseeing tour is also available.

The holiday price includes

- Scheduled flights between London Gatwick and Boston.
- Coach travel to the airport from selected departure points.
- Three nights accommodation in a quality centrally located hotel.
- Transfers between the airport and your hotel.
- Visit to Worcester Common shopping centre.
- Services of a tour manager.

Send for your brochure today by telephoning
0990 55 33 55
quoting *The Times*
or return the coupon below to:

The Times Boston Weekend Offer.
Festive Holidays Limited, Acorn House,
Great Oaks, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1AB
This holiday is operated by Festive Holidays Ltd,
a company independent of Times Newspapers Ltd.
ABTA V106X ATOL 2172

The Times Boston Weekend Offer
Please forward me an itinerary and a booking form
Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Ms) _____
Address: _____
Post Code: _____

☐ Please tick box if you do not wish to receive future offers from Times Newspapers or companies which may be of interest. **TIMES**

A LUXURY WEEK ON THE NILE

A cruise along the Nile on a deluxe vessel, not too large, and with like-minded travellers, has got to be one of the better ways of escaping the uncertain British weather. This cruising arrangement represents a truly unrivalled value since the tariff includes all meals, transfers, guides and excursions. If you are looking for a true escape with that magical combination of culture and relaxation, then this is surely an opportunity that should not be missed.

ITINERARY IN BRIEF

Fly from Gatwick to Aswan and join the MS Soleil for the 7-night cruise. Cruise to Edfu to see its temple, and on to Eana for the Temple of Khnum, then on to Luxor. Visit the West Bank, the Valley of the Kings, Luxor Temple and the Great Temple of Karnak. Cruise to Hom Ombro returning to Aswan with a full sightseeing programme (optional excursion by coach to Abu Simbel £75).



Cruise between Aswan and Luxor on the 5-star deluxe MS Soleil.
— 7 nights from £495.00* —

Accommodating up to 66 guests, the MS Soleil has 30 twin cabins, two singles and two suites, all of which are located away from the public areas, the engines and the kitchen. They are furnished with colour television, radio and telephone and each has a private shower and WC. The facilities on board include a restaurant, lounge, reception, two bars, boutique and a pool on the Sun Deck.

DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES

Mondays - per person in twin cabin
1996 Nov 4*, 11*, 18*, 25*, £545
Dec 2, 9, £600 - Dec 16, £545

*The first 20 places on these departures are at a special reduced tariff of £495 per person

1997 Jan 6, 13, 20, 27, £655
Feb 3, 10, 17, 24, £655
Mar 3, 10, 17, £655 - Mar 24, £685
Mar 31, £655 - Apr 7, 14, 21, 28, £655

Single cabin £225 - Upper decks £125
Abu Simbel by coach £75

Includes air travel, transfers, 7 nights on the Soleil, full board, excursion programme, local representative. Not included: insurance, visas, passport fees, tips. All bookings are subject to our Conditions of Booking, available on request.

0171-616 1008
VJ

VOYAGES JULES VERNE
21 Dorset Square, London NW1 6GG
Travel Promotions Ltd, ABTA V1061, ATOL V1061

Internet: <http://www.vj.co.uk>
For a brochure or to book, please contact your nearest travel agent or call 0171-616 1008. Office hours are 10am to 5pm weekdays only.

Special Offer

Hong Kong
5 nights from £599

Beijing
7 nights from £499
0171-836 9911
please quote 74/145

China Travel Service (UK) Ltd
C15 House, 7 Upper St Martin's Lane
London WC1H 9PL
Fax: 0171-836 9911 0171-836 9912

We must end these delays

Once again there are angry scenes at Gatwick as hundreds of holidaymakers are delayed for hours on end.

The industry had, it seemed, largely overcome the horrors of the 1980s when delays and congested airports were as much part of the British summer as cricket and fast road traffic jams.

But it became clear this week that there is still much to be done, especially by the smaller charter airlines. Worst affected this year has been the Inspirations Group, and its subsidiaries Caledonian and Goldcrest. There are valid reasons for the delays. But passengers must be prepared to shoulder some of the responsibility.

Tour operators are partially to blame for demanding ever-lower prices for their airline seats. Airlines in turn have to look for ever-bigger aircraft because it is cheaper to carry 393 passengers in one plane than to carry 200 in each of two.

This inevitably means less than 20-year-old Tristars that need a great deal of maintenance.

Caledonian's maintenance is being carried out at Gatwick by British Airways, which is both expanding its operations at the airport and reorganising its engineering department.

BA's rapid expansion at Gatwick — 900 scheduled flights a week this summer compared with 700 last — has not been matched by an increase in the number of maintenance engineers. So



The Travel Business
HARVEY ELLIOTT

the ten "third party" customer airlines who rely on BA to ensure that their aircraft are ready on time fear that they are not being given the attention they should.

Caledonian has persuaded BA to provide a dedicated team of full-time engineers to work on its Tristars. It should help. But the real answer is, surely, to stop flying Tristars. Not because they are unsafe but because they do cause these problems.

A few years ago when charter airlines operated mainly Boeing 737 jets with well under 200 seats, they were always able to rent a back-up in the event of a technical problem. Now there is no such "pool" of big, new jets waiting.

Caledonian has decided that the cost of a stand-by aircraft, even an old one, in case something goes wrong, is worth the money.

Everyone must work together to ensure such delays don't happen again. Passengers try to understand and don't get lost. Tour operators don't make unrealistic demands on the airlines. Airlines ditch the Tristar now. British Airways accept that on-time maintenance matters, especially to your small airline clients.

Bargains of the week — from luxury breaks in the Caribbean to youth hostels

HOTELS

HILTON National has launched its winter heritage weekends brochure which includes overnight packages such as a trip to see the Kirov Ballet perform *The Nutcracker* at the Royal Albert Hall, starting from £103 per person. Details: 01923 434000.

THE Vista Palace Hotel, located on a cliff above Monte Carlo, has a "French Riviera Paradise" package with Landing Hotels of the World until September 30. Priced at £530 per person, it includes three nights' accommodation, two lunches and dinners and a limousine excursion to local villages. Details: 0800 181123.

STAY two nights in any weekend until the end of November at the Montcalm Hotel near Marble Arch in central London and receive a free bottle of champagne. Weekend rate is £139.25 for a standard room per night (usual rate is £185). Details: 0171-402 4288.

THREE nights for the price of two is on offer to those aged over 55 at the Waterbury Hotel, near Maidstone in Kent, convenient for Leeds Castle. The price of £160 for two until the end of September includes three nights' accommodation with dinner and upgrade to the best room available. Details: 01622 812632.

THE Shepperton Meat House, located in 11 acres on the banks of the Thames, has a late offer until the end of the month for parents taking children to neighbouring Thorpe Park. Cost per night is £30 for each adult including theme park entry ticket, with children aged 6-15 paying £12 when sharing with their parents. Details: 01452 899488.

A SIMILAR deal is on offer from Highlife Breaks at Cadbury World in Birmingham until the end of October. Adults pay from £42 per person for half board at the Apollo Hotel including entrance ticket, with children aged 6-15 paying £10 on the basis of one child per adult. Details: 0800 700400.

THE Well House at St Kylene in Cornwall has a guided weekend break around Cornish gardens from September 13-15, including the "Lost Gardens of Heligan". Price is £255 per person including breakfast, dinner and tours. Details from Heritage Touring: 01305 266440.



Caribbean Connection has discounts on breaks to Peter Island in the British Virgin Islands

CROSS CHANNEL

SALLY Ferries has a special £30 three-day return for a car and up to five people on its Ramsgate-Dunkirk route, valid until the end of September. Details: 0800 456456.

TRAVELLERS to Paris or Brussels can now interchange first-class tickets on British midland flights and the Eurostar rail service through the Channel Tunnel. The flexible ticket can be used on rail outbound and air return, or vice versa, with fares costing £338 to Brussels and £352 to Paris. A free economy Eurostar return is included in the price. Details: 0345 303030.

P&O EUROPEAN Ferries has day returns from Dover to Calais available for £10 per car (£10 supplement for Saturdays) and £4 per passenger, valid until the end of August. Details: 0990 980980.

BROKERS Ferryshop has £10 day returns — including a car, two adults and three children — available on Sally Ferries from Ramsgate to Dunkirk or Ostend. Details: 0990 706050.

FLIGHTS

GLOBEPOST is marketing dual travel mode tickets to Paris. A round-trip fare costing roughly £80 would enable you to fly out with Air Inter Europe and return with Eurostar. Details: 0171-587 0503.

LAKER is offering two tickets for the price of one between Gatwick and Miami on fares priced over £499 return. The deal covers selected dates in the autumn and winter. Details: 01293 775555.

BRITISH Airways has a £329 seat sale fare to Dubai during October and November. Book by September 4. Details: 0345 222111.

AIR UK is awarding double points to loyalty club members booking its new London City to Amsterdam service. Details: 0345 666777.

BRITISH Airways and **Qantas** are marketing £749 world offer fares from Manchester to destinations in Australia and New Zealand. Book by October 13 for travel during selected periods in the winter. Details: 0345 222111.

HOLIDAYS

CARIBBEAN Connection (01244 341131) has cut £224 from its 14-night package to Peter Island in the British Virgin Islands for departures until September 8. The new price of £2,538 includes water sports facilities. Caribbeours (0171-581 3517) has also dropped the price for a 14-night stay by £266 to £1,348 for departures between September 9 to 30.

FLIGHTS to 11 Caribbean islands have been reduced to £589 with BWA International Airways between September 15 and October 15. Booking by September 4. Details: 0171-745 1100.

GET on your bike in The Netherlands. Four nights' full board in Arnhem and Rosmalen, ferry and cycle hire costs £224 for adults and £129 for children with Anglo Dutch Sports. Details: 0181 289 2808.

THE Florida Keys can be explored on a British Airways Holidays fly-drive package for £749 including room-only accommodation. Details: 01293 721111.

TRY your luck at England's answer to the city of lights — the Isle of Wight. Norton Grange Holiday Village is holding a Viva Las Vegas weekend from September 20 for £79. You could even win your money back. Details from Warner Holidays: 01705 492121.

VERDI's Otello is the highlight of an opera holiday in Cyprus costing £491 for flights, tickets for the performance and seven nights' B&B in a four-star hotel in Paphos. Details from Argo Holidays: 0171-331 7070.

BALES Tours has spaces on its nine-day Magic of India tour departing September 27 for £398. The price covers sightseeing tours, including the Taj Mahal. Details: 01306 885991.

THE Youth Hostel Association has an eight-day guided walk through Sussex and Hampshire, with hostel accommodation for £249. Departs September 7. Details: 01629 828550.

Shipwrecks are some of the temptations of a scuba-diving holiday in the Brazilian islands of Fernando de Noronha with Journey Latin America. Prices from £1,384 for eight nights with full board. Details: 0181-747 8315.

CHECK-IN

BEST OFFERS!

Best Premium Class Offers from American Airlines

Destination	Class	Price
Atlanta	First	£250
Boston	First	£250
Chicago	First	£250
Los Angeles	First	£250
London	First	£250
Manila	First	£250
San Francisco	First	£250
Seattle	First	£250
Tampa	First	£250
Washington	First	£250

WORLDWIDE ABTA CAR HIRE

SPAIN £189
PORTUGAL £189
ITALY £189
Greece/Cyprus £189
EUROPE £189

0181 832 2777

USA & CANADA

0171 460 2255

Destination	Price
Atlanta	£239
Boston	£239
Chicago	£239
Los Angeles	£239
London	£239
Manila	£239
San Francisco	£239
Seattle	£239
Tampa	£239
Washington	£239

ICARUS FLIGHTS

Flight Prices From

Destination	Price
Atlanta	£239
Boston	£239
Chicago	£239
Los Angeles	£239
London	£239
Manila	£239
San Francisco	£239
Seattle	£239
Tampa	£239
Washington	£239

DNATA

TRAVEL UK LTD

AMSTERDAM £70
BRUSSELS £70
PARIS £70
LONDON £70
DUBLIN £70
BIRMINGHAM £70
GLASGOW £70
MANCHESTER £70

KARACHI

TRAVEL UK LTD

AMSTERDAM £70
BRUSSELS £70
PARIS £70
LONDON £70
DUBLIN £70
BIRMINGHAM £70
GLASGOW £70
MANCHESTER £70

The Shopaholics

Perfect Breaks

Three of the USA's Top Shopping Cities where you can Shop 'Til You Drop. 3 day trips from £279

MAJOR USA

0171 485 7017

GO PREMIUM CLASS!!!

0171 636 3055

AMERICAN AIRLINES

Best Premium Class Offers from American Airlines

Destination	Class	Price
Atlanta	First	£250
Boston	First	£250
Chicago	First	£250
Los Angeles	First	£250
London	First	£250
Manila	First	£250
San Francisco	First	£250
Seattle	First	£250
Tampa	First	£250
Washington	First	£250

U.S. AIR

0181 506 2222

AMERICAN AIRLINES

Best Premium Class Offers from American Airlines

Destination	Class	Price
Atlanta	First	£250
Boston	First	£250
Chicago	First	£250
Los Angeles	First	£250
London	First	£250
Manila	First	£250
San Francisco	First	£250
Seattle	First	£250
Tampa	First	£250
Washington	First	£250

TRAILFINDERS

THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

More than just low cost flights worldwide

WITH UP TO 65% DISCOUNT ON HOTELS & CAR HIRE

Call Trailfinders for the complete tailor-made travel service

LONDON Longhugh: 0171-938 3366

Transatlantic & European: 0171-937 5400

First & Business Class: 0171-938 3444

BIRMINGHAM Worldwide: 0121-236 1234

BRISTOL Worldwide: 0117-929 9000

GLASGOW Worldwide: 0141-353 2221

MANCHESTER Worldwide: 0161-839 6069

First & Business Class: 0161-839 3434

STA TRAVEL

WORLD LEADERS IN YOUNG INDEPENDENT TRAVEL

Paris £48
Amsterdam £48
Frankfurt £48
Athens £48
Prague £48

London £152
New York £152
Washington £152
Boston £152
Los Angeles £152
Tokyo £152
Hong Kong £152

0171 361 6161

CRISTAL

TRAVEL

AMSTERDAM £70
BRUSSELS £70
PARIS £70
LONDON £70
DUBLIN £70
BIRMINGHAM £70
GLASGOW £70
MANCHESTER £70

GO PREMIUM CLASS!!!

0171 636 3055

AMERICAN AIRLINES

Best Premium Class Offers from American Airlines

Destination	Class	Price
Atlanta	First	£250
Boston	First	£250
Chicago	First	£250
Los Angeles	First	£250
London	First	£250
Manila	First	£250
San Francisco	First	£250
Seattle	First	£250
Tampa	First	£250
Washington	First	£250

U.S. AIR

0181 506 2222

AMERICAN AIRLINES

Best Premium Class Offers from American Airlines

Destination	Class	Price
Atlanta	First	£250
Boston	First	£250
Chicago	First	£250
Los Angeles	First	£250
London	First	£250
Manila	First	£250
San Francisco	First	£250
Seattle	First	£250
Tampa	First	£250
Washington	First	£250

TRAILFINDERS

THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

More than just low cost flights worldwide

WITH UP TO 65% DISCOUNT ON HOTELS & CAR HIRE

Call Trailfinders for the complete tailor-made travel service

LONDON Longhugh: 0171-938 3366

Transatlantic & European: 0171-937 5400

First & Business Class: 0171-938 3444

BIRMINGHAM Worldwide: 0121-236 1234

BRISTOL Worldwide: 0117-929 9000

GLASGOW Worldwide: 0141-353 2221

MANCHESTER Worldwide: 0161-839 6069

First & Business Class: 0161-839 3434

STA TRAVEL

WORLD LEADERS IN YOUNG INDEPENDENT TRAVEL

Paris £48
Amsterdam £48
Frankfurt £48
Athens £48
Prague £48

London £152
New York £152
Washington £152
Boston £152
Los Angeles £152
Tokyo £152
Hong Kong £152

0171 361 6161

CRISTAL

TRAVEL

AMSTERDAM £70
BRUSSELS £70
PARIS £70
LONDON £70
DUBLIN £70
BIRMINGHAM £70
GLASGOW £70
MANCHESTER £70

GO PREMIUM CLASS!!!

0171 636 3055

AMERICAN AIRLINES

Best Premium Class Offers from American Airlines

Destination	Class	Price
Atlanta	First	£250
Boston	First	£250
Chicago	First	£250
Los Angeles	First	£250
London	First	£250
Manila	First	£250
San Francisco	First	£250
Seattle	First	£250
Tampa	First	£250
Washington	First	£250

U.S. AIR

0181 506 2222

AMERICAN AIRLINES

Best Premium Class Offers from American Airlines

Destination	Class	Price
Atlanta	First	£250
Boston	First	£250
Chicago	First	£250
Los Angeles	First	£250
London	First	£250
Manila	First	£250
San Francisco	First	£250
Seattle	First	£250
Tampa	First	£250
Washington	First	£250

TRAILFINDERS

THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

More than just low cost flights worldwide

WITH UP TO 65% DISCOUNT ON HOTELS & CAR HIRE

Call Trailfinders for the complete tailor-made travel service

LONDON Longhugh: 0171-938 3366

Transatlantic & European: 0171-937 5400

First & Business Class: 0171-938 3444

BIRMINGHAM Worldwide: 0121-236 1234

BRISTOL Worldwide: 0117-929 9000

GLASGOW Worldwide: 0141-353 2221

MANCHESTER Worldwide: 0161-839 6069

First & Business Class: 0161-839 3434

STA TRAVEL

WORLD LEADERS IN YOUNG INDEPENDENT TRAVEL

Paris £48
Amsterdam £48
Frankfurt £48
Athens £48
Prague £48

London £152
New York £152
Washington £152
Boston £152
Los Angeles £152
Tokyo £152
Hong Kong £152

0171 361 6161

CRISTAL

TRAVEL

AMSTERDAM £70
BRUSSELS £70
PARIS £70
LONDON £70
DUBLIN £70
BIRMINGHAM £70
GLASGOW £70
MANCHESTER £70

GO PREMIUM CLASS!!!

0171 636 3055

AMERICAN AIRLINES

Best Premium Class Offers from American Airlines

Destination	Class	Price
Atlanta	First	£250
Boston	First	£250
Chicago	First	£250
Los Angeles	First	£250
London	First	£250
Manila	First	£250
San Francisco	First	£250
Seattle	First	£250
Tampa	First	£250
Washington	First	£250

U.S. AIR

0181 506 2222

AMERICAN AIRLINES

Best Premium Class Offers from American Airlines

Destination	Class	Price
Atlanta	First	£250
Boston	First	£250
Chicago	First	£250
Los Angeles	First	£250
London	First	£250
Manila	First	£250
San Francisco	First	£250
Seattle	First	£250
Tampa	First	£250
Washington	First	£250

TRAILFINDERS

THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

More than just low cost flights worldwide

WITH UP TO 65% DISCOUNT ON HOTELS & CAR HIRE

Call Trailfinders for the complete tailor-made travel service

LONDON Longhugh: 0171-938 3366

Transatlantic & European: 0171-937 5400

First & Business Class: 0171-938 3444

BIRMINGHAM Worldwide: 0121-236 1234

BRISTOL Worldwide: 0117-929 9000

GLASGOW Worldwide: 0141-353 2221

MANCHESTER Worldwide: 0161-839 6069

First & Business Class: 0161-839 3434

STA TRAVEL

WORLD LEADERS IN YOUNG INDEPENDENT TRAVEL

Paris £48
Amsterdam £48
Frankfurt £48
Athens £48
Prague £48

London £152
New York £152
Washington £152
Boston £152
Los Angeles £152
Tokyo £152
Hong Kong £152

0171 361 6161

CRISTAL

TRAVEL

AMSTERDAM £70
BRUSSELS £70
PARIS £70
LONDON £70
DUBLIN £70
BIRMINGHAM £70
GLASGOW £70
MANCHESTER £70

GO PREMIUM CLASS!!!

0171 636 3055

AMERICAN AIRLINES

Best Premium Class Offers from American Airlines

Destination	Class	Price
Atlanta	First	£250
Boston	First	£250
Chicago	First	£250
Los Angeles	First	£250
London	First	£250
Manila	First	£250
San Francisco	First	£250
Seattle	First	£250
Tampa	First	£250
Washington	First	£250

